

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Lateral 4
Affected Facility: Truesdale (806)
Dates: Field assessment - 10/3/06

Public Comments:

One survey was returned for Lateral 4 from a Buena Vista County Conservation Board employee. The survey stated some seining and trapping as the known recreational uses taking place in Lateral 4 in the assessed reach.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for Lateral 4 due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The comment received stated that some seining and trapping occurs in Lateral 4. These activities are consistent with those that are protected by the Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreation designation.

The comments received for Lateral 4 did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Lateral 4 will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (Buena Vista County) to the 540th Street bridge (S. Line, S34, T92N, R37W, Buena Vista County).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Linn Creek
Affected Facility: Ace Precision Casting, LLC (667), Fisher Controls INTL., INC (Main Office) (328), and Fisher Controls INTL., INC (Governor Road) (329)
Dates: Field assessment – 3/24/06

Public Comments:

One survey was returned for Linn creek from a Marshall County Conservation Board employee. The survey stated that there were no known recreational uses taking place in Linn Creek in the assessed reach, even though Linn Creek travels through the public lands at the Marshall County Conservation headquarters.

One internet survey was returned about Linn creek that stated there was swimming, tubing, children's play, and fishing at the East Nevada Bridge.

Analysis:

The previous assessment recommended that Linn Creek be designated as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation from the mouth (S. line, NE1/4, S30, T84N, R17W, Marshall County) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (NE1/4, S5, T83N, R19W, Marshall County) due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

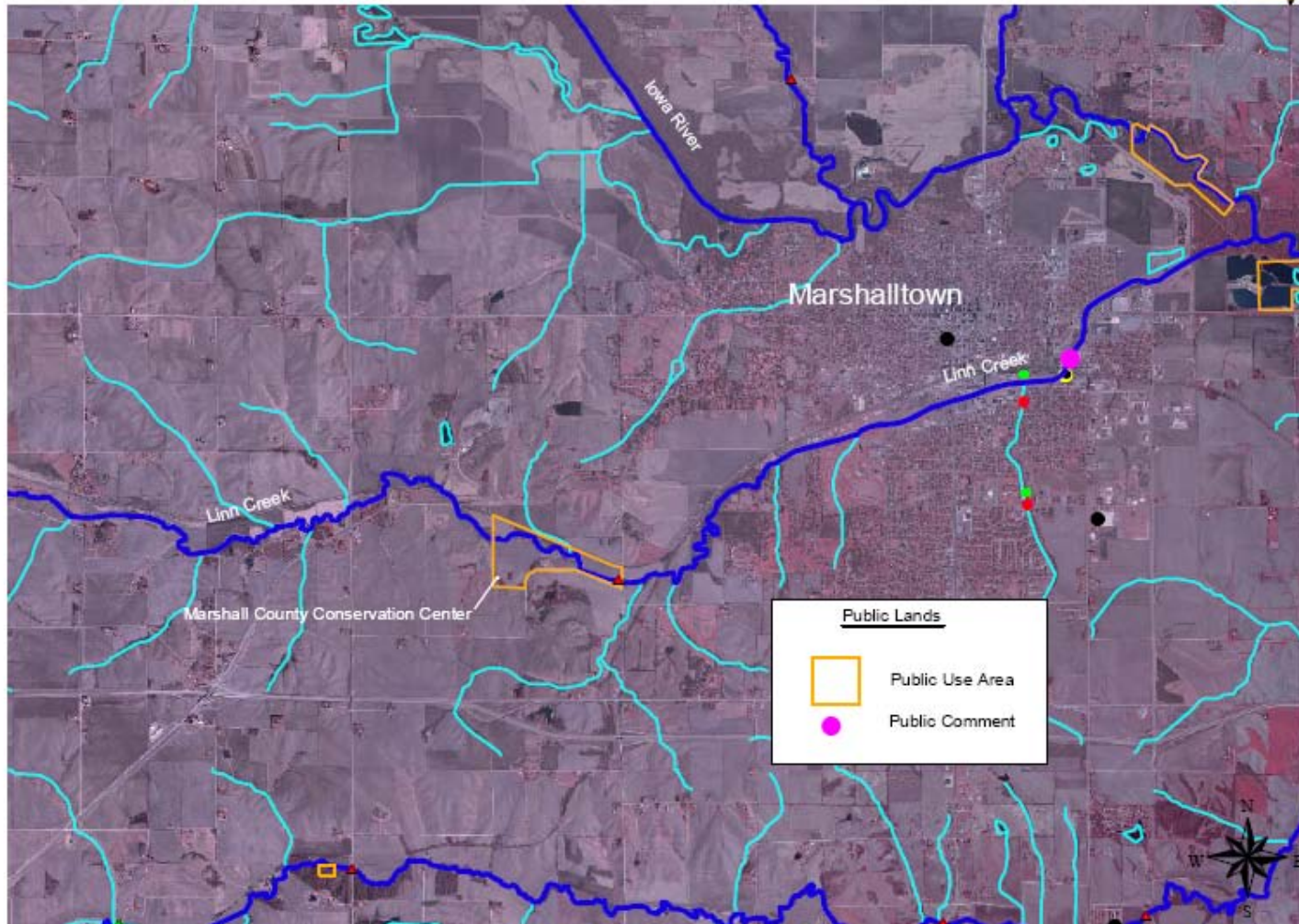
Review of the current UAA recommendation and associated data collected in the field demonstrates that Linn creek is shallow (4 - 13 inches) throughout the assessed reach.

There were no people observed recreating in the water at the time of the assessment. Recreation evidence typically consisted of remnant fishing tackle and footpaths and/or footprints near the stream. Streamside recreational evidence consisted of graffiti under the bridge. The footpath and graffiti were found at site 667-1 while the fishing tackle and a "No Trespassing" sign were found at 667-2. Sites 667-2 and 667-1 both had a bike path or trail near the stream. Evidence found during the field assessment was consistent with Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreational Use.

The comments received for Linn creek did not provide any additional information about the recommended Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreational Use portion that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Linn creek will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (S. line, NE1/4, S30, T84N, R17W, Marshall County) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (NE1/4, S5, T83N, R19W, Marshall County). *

*See recommendation map for details

Public Lands and Comments- Linn Creek



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Little Bear Creek
Affected Facility: Newhall (399)
Dates: Field assessment – 9/25/06

Public Comments:

One survey was returned for Little Bear Creek from a Benton County Conservation Board employee. The survey stated that there were no known recreational uses taking place in Little Bear Creek other than trapping for minnows and fish during the summer months.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for Little Bear Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The comments received for Little Bear Creek provided additional information that further supports the recommended Secondary Contact Recreational Use designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Creek will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (NE ¼, NW ¼, S24, T84N, R9W, Benton Co.) to the confluence of Unnamed Creek (NE ¼, SE ¼, S14, T83N, R10W, Benton Co.).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Little Beaver Creek
Affected Facility: Woodward (422)
Dates: Field assessment – 4/26/06

Public Comments:

One survey was returned for Little Beaver Creek from a Dallas County Conservation Board employee. The survey stated that the only recreational use that may be taking place in Little Beaver Creek would be fishing or seining for minnows. There were no known recreational activities noted.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded a Secondary Contact Recreational use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for Little Beaver Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The comments received for Little Beaver Creek provide additional information that further support the Secondary Contact (Class A2) recommendation and therefore will not result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Little Beaver Creek will remain Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (S14, T81N, R27W, Dallas Co.) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (SE ¼ of SE ¼ of S29, T82N, R27W, Boone Co.).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Little Beaver Creek
Affected Facility: Grimes (119)
Dates: Field assessment – 4/24/06

Public Comments:

One survey was returned for Little Beaver Creek from a Polk County Conservation Board employee. The survey stated that there were no known recreational uses taking place in Little Beaver Creek.

One survey was returned from the general public stating that the person and their family had waded in, floated in, and canoed in nine of Iowa's stream including Little Beaver Creek, though a specific location was not given.

An email was received from the general public stating that children in the area recreate in the stream.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded a Secondary Contact Recreational use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for Little Beaver Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

One of the three comments received stated that Little Beaver Creek is used for wading, floating and canoeing. The depth and overall size of Little Beaver Creek is not considered adequate to support floating and canoeing (average depths ranged from 3 – 4 inches).



Site 119-1 Downstream of the Bridge Looking Upstream

During the field assessment there was some evidence of recreational uses, such as ATV tracks, graffiti under the bridge and footprints found at site 119-1, though the frequency is not considered adequate to warrant a Children's Recreation Use (Class A3). One comment stated that children play in the stream when the weather is good, but the location and frequency of the children's play was not given and during the field assessment there was a lack of evidence that would support that children's play is frequent. Although children's play may be taking place in the stream it is difficult to determine if the activities are taking place at a frequency to warrant a Class A3 Children's Recreational Use designation at this time.

It should be noted that the Department continually updates the water quality standards for Iowa. This can include follow-up studies regarding Use Attainability Analyses to incorporate latest and any new information to ensure the uses of Iowa's waters are reflected appropriately in the Water Quality Standards.

The comments received for Little Beaver Creek did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Little Beaver Creek will remain Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (S35, T80N, R25W, Polk Co.) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (SW ¼ of SW ¼ of S29, T80N, R25W, Polk Co.).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Little Floyd River
Affected Facility: Sanborn (490)
Dates: Field assessment - 8/22/06 and 11/02/06

Public Comments:

One email was received for the Little Floyd River from an Iowater Volunteer. The email stated that no swimming or fishing was taking place along the Little Floyd River.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for the Little Floyd River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The comments received for the Little Floyd River did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Little Floyd River will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (S1, T96N, R43W, Sioux Co.) to the East line S29, T97N, R41W, O'Brien Co.*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Little Maple River
Affected Facility: Alta (408)
Dates: Field assessment – 8/23/06, 11/7/06

Public Comments:

Two surveys were returned for the Little Maple River from a Buena Vista County Conservation Board employee. The survey stated that there were no known recreational uses taking place in the Little Maple River in the assessed reach.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for the Little Maple River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The comments received for the Little Maple River did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for the Little Maple River will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (SW ¼ S34, T90N, R39W, Cherokee County) upstream to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (SE ¼ S27, T91N, R38W, Buena Vista County). *

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Little Rock River
Affected Facility: City of Sibley (291)
Otter Creek Ethanol (156)
Dates: Field assessment – 8/22/2006 & 11/6/2006
Phone interviews - Dec. 07/ Jan. 08

Public Comments:

There was 1 comment received for the assessed segment of the Little Rock River from a Lyon County Conservation employee. The survey stated that swimming occurs at various bridge locations throughout the Little Rock River approximately once a week in the summer months. Swimming was noted to occur on a more frequent basis at the Jackson Street Bridge near the confluence with Otter Creek.

Children's play was also noted to occur at various bridges throughout the Little Rock River approximately two times a month in the summer. Children's play was noted to occur on a more frequent basis near the town of Doon at the Garfield Street Bridge.

Canoeing and tubing were noted to occur throughout the assessed segment of the Little Rock River. The survey stated that during normal flow conditions canoeing or tubing occurs approximately 1-2 times a month. Canoeing was noted to occur on a more frequent basis from the town of Doon to the Rock River.

Fishing on the Little Rock River was noted to occur on a weekly basis at most bridges.

Analysis:

The initial department recommendation concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for the Little Rock River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence and information to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3). (see previous recommendation map).

The depth criteria guidelines used by the department to help determine if Primary Contact Recreational use (Class A1) is attainable typically will exclude streams that are not able to support a Class A1 use due to the overall lack of flow needed to support activities that result in direct and prolonged contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting appreciable quantities of water sufficient to pose a health hazard. While these guidelines are effective in most situations, there are cases where a stream demonstrates that it can support the Class A1 use despite the lack of flow that typically distinguishes a stream that can support Primary Contact Recreational uses.

The comments from the Lyon County Conservation Board have indicated that multiple recreational uses occur throughout the Little Rock River. The comments received

describe the occurrence of activities consistent with all three of Iowa's recreational use designations.

Although swimming and children's play were noted to occur throughout the river, comments were concentrated on the stream segment between the bridges on Jackson Street downstream to Indian Street. Children's play also was concentrated at the Garfield Street Bridge just south of the City of Doon. Canoeing and tubing were also noted to occur throughout the assessed segment of the river. Canoeing and tubing comments concentrated from the Garfield Street Bridge, downstream to the Rock River.

During the field assessment of the Little Rock River, evidence of recreational use was found at site (512-1). The evidence consisted of remnant fishing tackle wrapped around a power line crossing the river. No other evidence of recreational uses were found during the field assessment.

A maximum depth of 40 inches was found at site (156-a) and a scour hole in a sand bar at site (512-1) had a depth of 44 inches; however, much of the river did not provide adequate average depths to support Class A1 uses with average depths from 6-15 inches. However, the comments received suggest that Class A1 Primary Contact Recreation uses occur on a regular basis throughout the assessed segment of the Little Rock River.



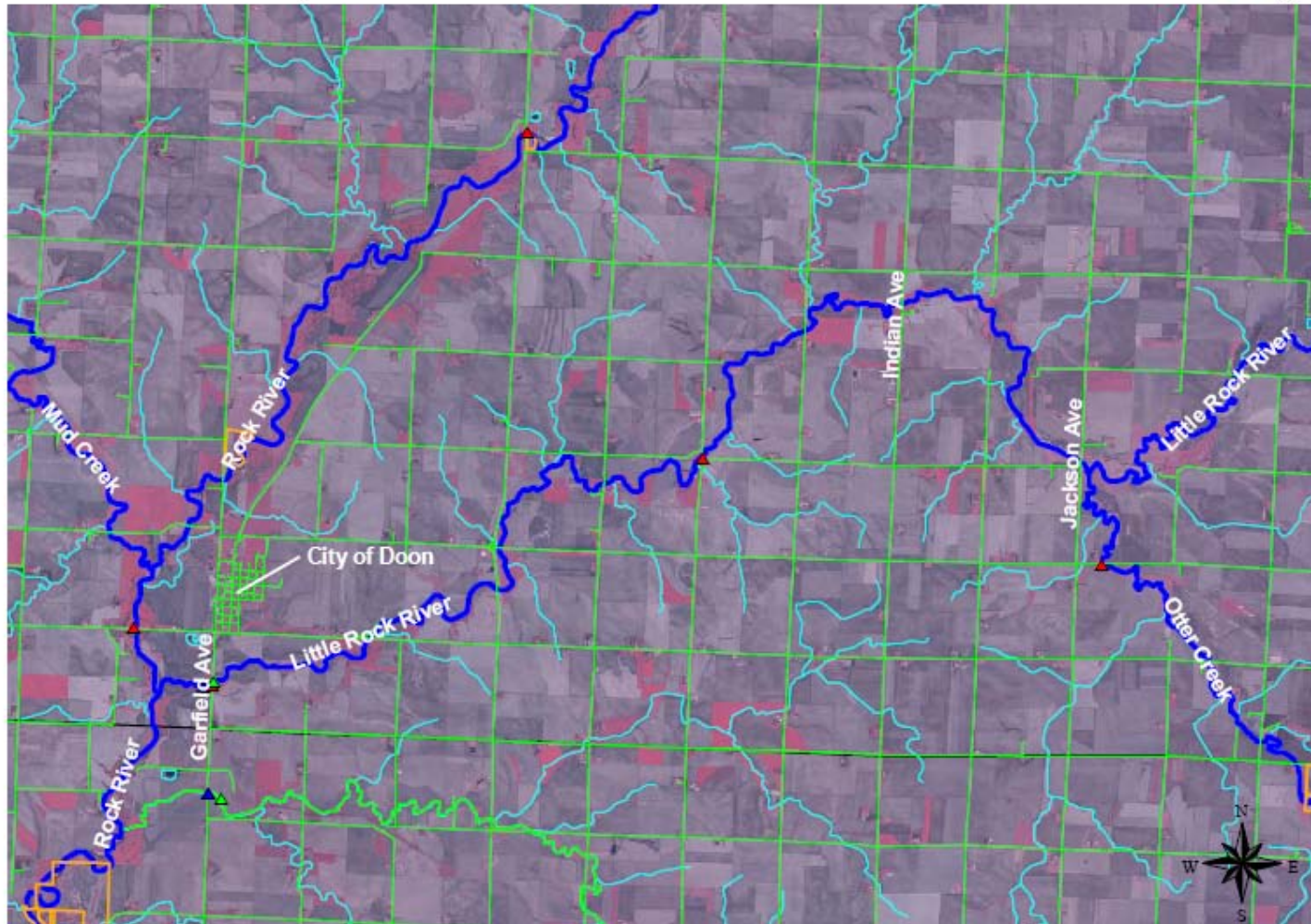
156-a Bridge view, looking upstream

Due to recent information the Department is modifying the original recommendations as detailed below.

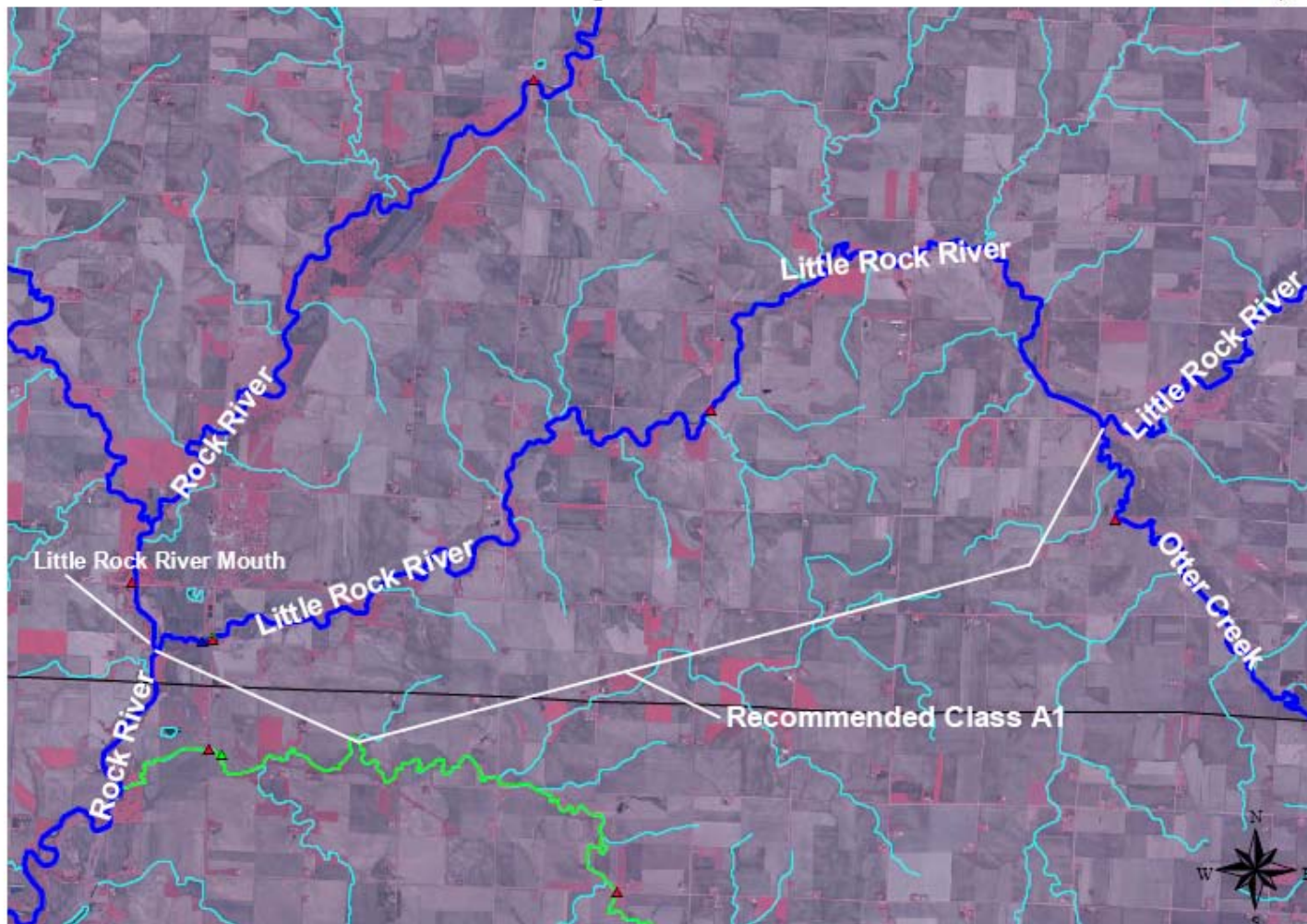
- Class A1, Primary Contact Recreation from the mouth of the Little Rock River (S35, T98N, R46W, Lyon Co.) to the confluence with Otter Creek (SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of S16, T98N, R44W, Lyon Co.)*

* See recommendation map

Street Map for Little Rock River



Recommendation Map for Little Rock River



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Little Turkey River
Affected Facilities: Turkey Valley Community Schools (284) and Waucoma (25)
Dates: Field assessment - 5/25/2006, 10/20/06, and 10/30/07;
Survey(s)/Interview(s) – 12/07, 11/07, and 4/07

Public Comments:

County Conservation Board Phone Survey

A recreational use phone survey was conducted with an employee of the Fayette County Conservation Board concerning the segment of river flowing through Gouldsburg Park. The survey indicated the following: Children and young adults wading at the park access, weekly; canoeing occurs daily in the summer; and fishing takes place weekly.

Online Survey/Email/Mail

Three surveys/public comments were received by the department from residents of Iowa. One survey indicated fishing (11 times over 3 years) and tubing (9 times over 3 years) take place from Gouldsburg Park to Eldorado; they fished from a kickboat; and wet wading occurred while engaging in this activity. One public comment stated that the person, as well as their family, have waded, floated, and canoed in the Little Turkey River (frequency and location were not noted). An additional comment indicated the following: Children play in the river through Waucoma and the unincorporated town of El dorado; jet skis and swimmers have been observed above the Waucoma impoundment; they have personally tubed and paddled the river from Waucoma to the mouth; fully body submersion can occur with great frequency, they personally had been submerged numerous times; while canoeing they have observed swimming and wading.

One online survey was filled out by a resident of Iowa. This survey pertained to areas not in the affected reach of the river.

Analysis:

The initial department recommendation concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for the Little Turkey River from the mouth to the Waucoma Impoundment dam and from the upper extent of the Waucoma Impoundment to the confluence with Unnamed Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence and information to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3). The initial recommendation also concluded that a Primary Contact Recreational Use (Class A1) designation was appropriate for the Little Turkey River from the Waucoma Impoundment dam to the upper extent of the impoundment.

Section 1: Mouth to the Waucoma Impoundment Dam

The depth criteria guidelines used by the department to help determine if Primary Contact Recreational use (Class A1) is attainable typically will exclude streams that are not able to support a Class A1 use due to the overall lack of flow needed to support activities that result in direct and prolonged contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting appreciable quantities of water sufficient to pose a health hazard. While these guidelines are effective in most situations, there are cases where a stream demonstrates that it can support the Class A1 use despite the lack of flow that typically distinguishes a stream that can support Primary Contact Recreational uses.

Public comments have provided evidence of primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation, and children's recreation in this segment of the river. During the initial assessment of the river, four of nine average depths and one of nine maximum depths were considered adequate average and maximum depths for primary contact recreation in this segment based on the guidelines used by department in determining attainability of primary contact recreation. However, these measurements were influenced by elevated stream-flow conditions due to rainfall events. Taking into account the elevated flow of the river, it was concluded that only two of the eighteen measurements were considered adequate depths for primary contact recreation.

Two sites were revisited in 2007 to determine size of pools and presence of depth.

25-5a located just downstream of the Waucoma impoundment dam

An area approximately 20 feet X 20 contained maximum depth of 39 inches or greater

25-3a located a Goulsburg Park

An area approximately 700 feet long X 75-117 feet wide contained maximum depths 39 inches or greater in 1/3 of the river channel.

According to the Iowa Stream Fishing and Canoe Guide this segment of the Little Turkey River is a designated canoe route and contains accesses at the Waucoma Park and Goulsburg Park.

Public comments as well as the depths deep enough for primary contact recreation validate that primary contact recreational uses are attainable for this segment of the river. Therefore the department recommends the following:

Primary Contact Recreational Use designation from the mouth (S18, T95N, R8W, Fayette Co.) to the Waucoma impoundment dam (SE ¼, SW ¼, S9, T95N, R10W, Fayette Co.).*

Section 2: Waucoma Impoundment Dam to the upper extent of the impoundment

The comments received for this segment of the Little Turkey River did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for this segment of the Little Turkey River will remain as follows:

Primary Contact Recreational use designation from the Waucoma impoundment dam (SE ¼, SW ¼, S9, T95N, R10W, Fayette Co.) to the end of the Waucoma impoundment (SW ¼, NE ¼, S9, T95N, R10W, Fayette Co.).*

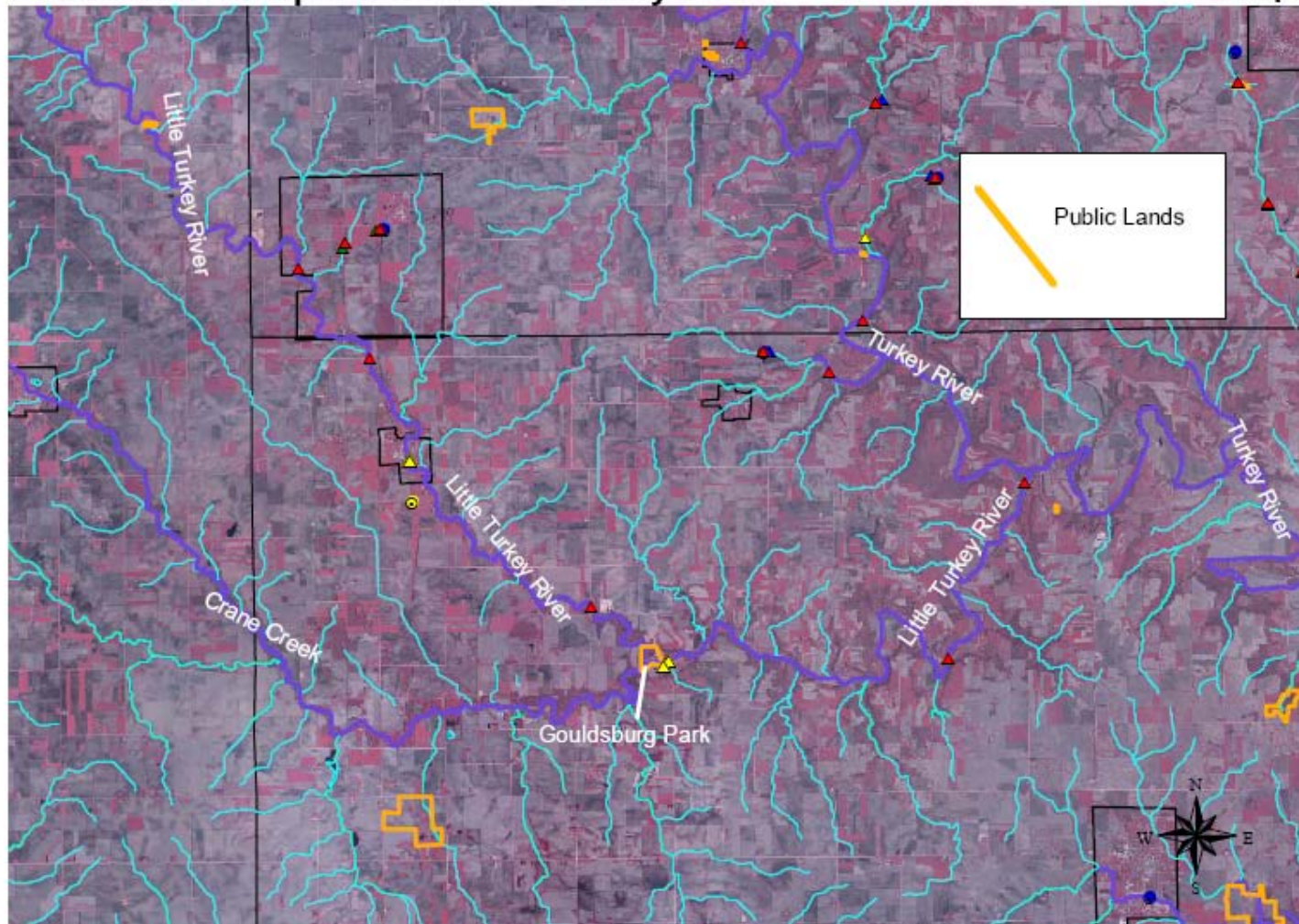
Section 3: Upper extent of the Waucoma Impoundment to the confluence with Unnamed Creek

One public comment stated that the person, as well as their family, have waded, floated, and canoed in the Little Turkey River (frequency and location were not noted). An additional comment stated that jet skis and swimmers have been observed above the Waucoma impoundment, but it is presumed these activities are occurring within the impoundment. No evidence of primary contact recreation was found in this segment of the river or depths considered capable of supporting primary contact recreation during the department's initial assessment. This segment did not demonstrate the conditions to support recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard associated with primary contact recreation at the time of assessment.

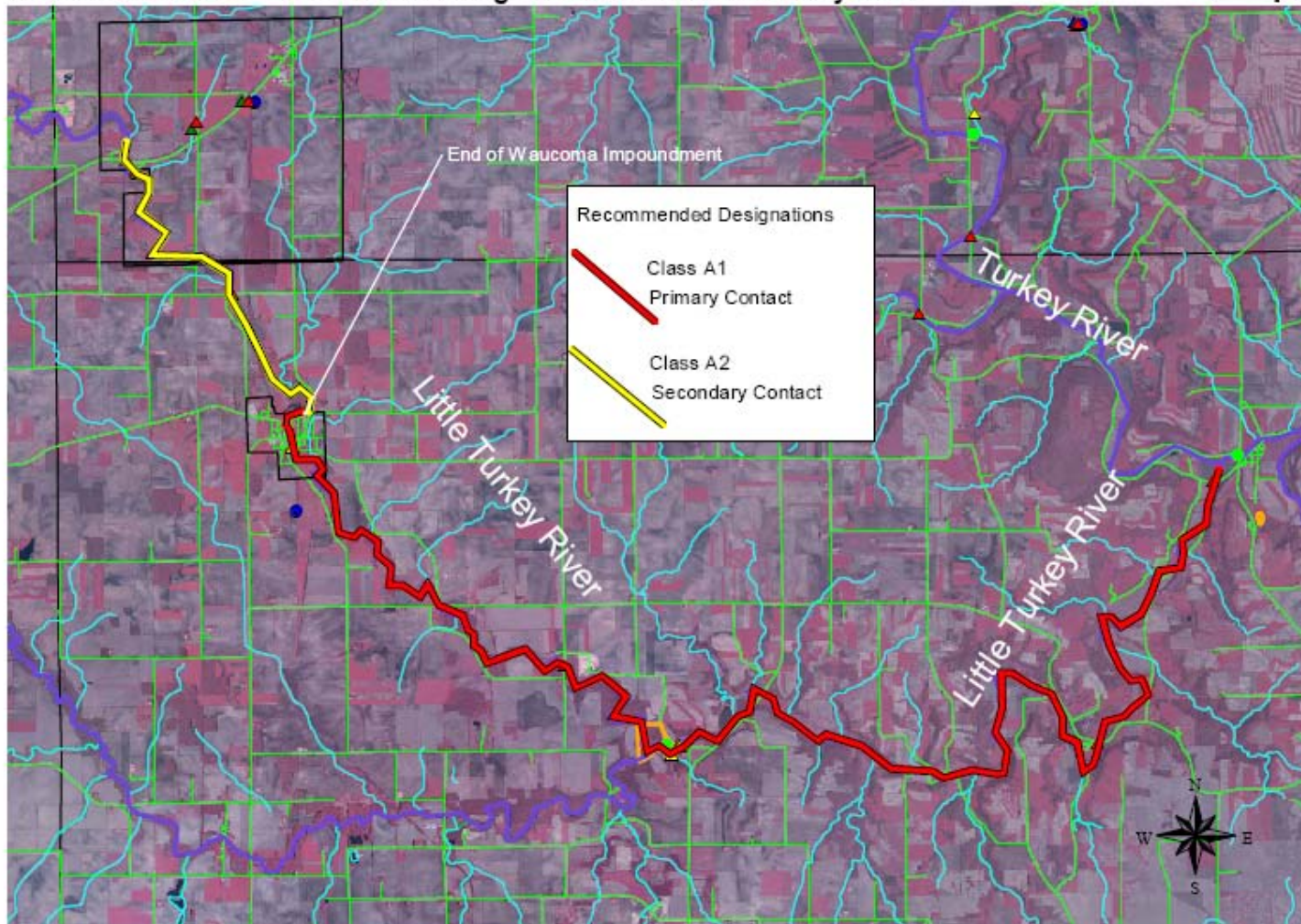
The comments received for this segment of the Little Turkey River did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's recommended designation for this segment of the Little Turkey River will remain as follows:

Secondary Contact Recreational Use from the upper extent of the Waucoma impoundment (SW ¼, NE ¼, S9, T95N, R10W, Fayette Co.) to confluence with Unnamed Creek (NE ¼, SE ¼, S30, T96N, R10W, Winneshiek Co.).*

Public Lands Map for The Little Turkey River



Recommended Recreational Use Designation for the Little Turkey River



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Little Wapsipinicon River
Affected Facility: City of Elma (443)
City of New Hampton (229)
Dates: Field assessment - 8/10/06 & 9/27/06

Public Comments:

Six surveys were returned for the Little Wapsipinicon River. Four surveys were returned from the Chickasaw County Conservation Board. One survey from the conservation board pertained to the entire river, and stated that minnow seining and trapping probably occur. The frequency of these events was unknown. No other recreational uses were noted.

One survey pertaining to the Little Wapsipinicon River within Haus Park was returned from the Chickasaw County Conservation Board. The survey stated that wading and children's play were possible but not observed. Minnow seining was noted to occur, but at an unknown frequency. No other recreational uses were noted.

A returned survey for the river within Ringneck Haven was returned from the Chickasaw County Conservation Board. The survey stated that children's play, canoeing, and minnow trapping may possibly occur, but are not frequent activities. This survey also stated that animal trapping occurs every year in the cooler months. No other recreational uses were noted.

The final survey submitted by the Chickasaw County Conservation Board pertained to the Little Wapsipinicon Wildlife Area. The survey noted that canoeing was possible, but at an unknown frequency. Public hunting was noted to occur in the wildlife area. No other recreational uses were noted.

The other two surveys were returned from private citizens. The first postcard survey was submitted by a resident near site (443-2). The survey stated that no know recreational uses are taking place in the Little Wapsipinicon River. The second postcard survey was submitted by a resident near site (443-3). The survey noted that swimming, children's play, canoeing, and fishing all take place in the river. No frequency for these activities was noted.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for the Little Wapsipinicon River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

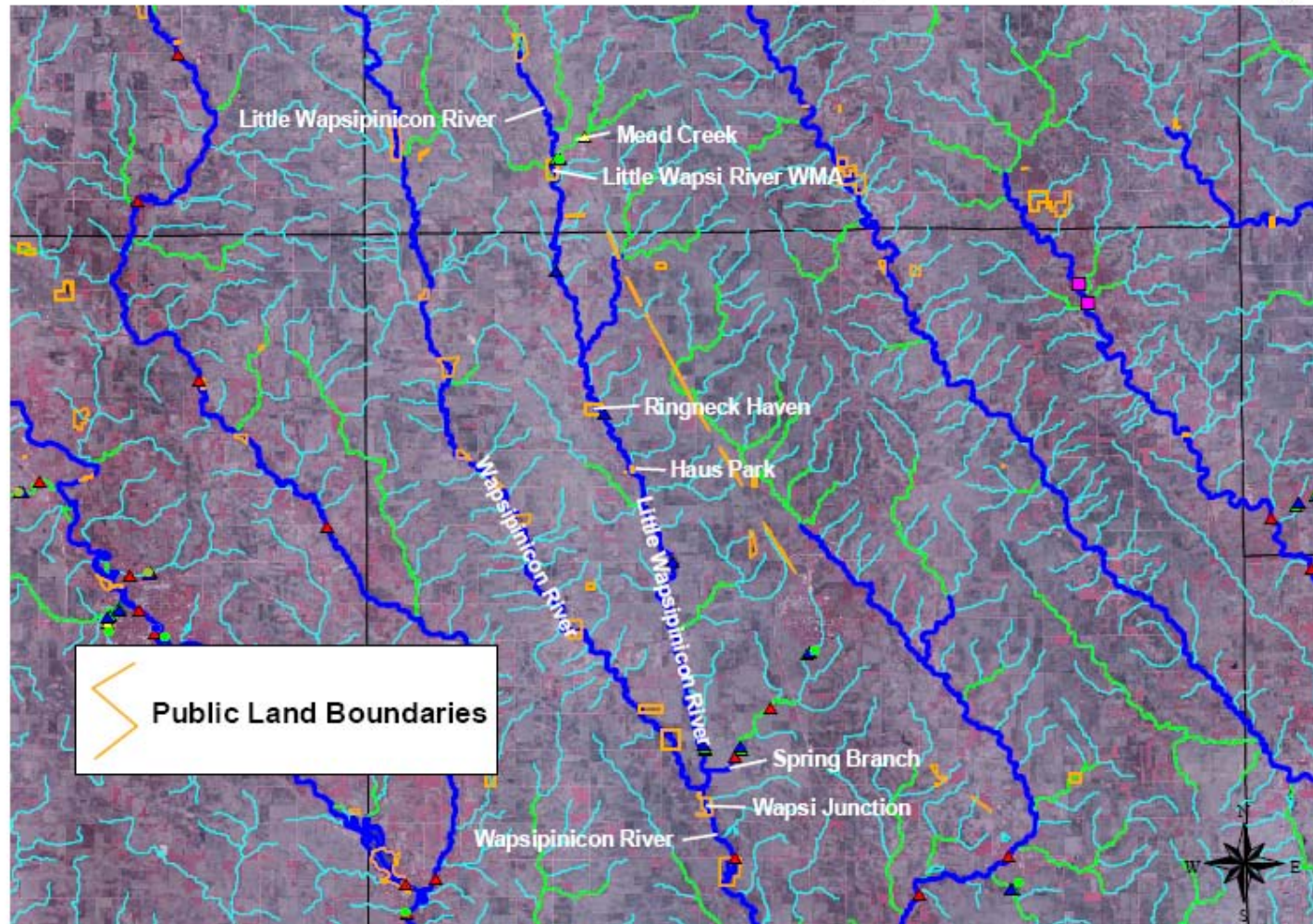
The only evidence of recreational uses found during the field assessment as noted by the Little Wapsipinicon River UAA, was a rope swing tied to the under side of the bridge at site (443-3). It did not appear that the rope swing had been used recently due to the algal growth and its frayed condition. No footprints or footpaths were found along the banks. There was a very small pool near the rope swing, but the pool was only 22 inches deep and very narrow. The postcard survey submitted for this site may be reflecting activities during higher flows. With average depths found at this site of 3 and 4 inches it is very unlikely that canoeing or swimming can occur. Although children's play activities were noted at this location in the river, the overall lack of evidence combined with the unknown frequency of use does not support a Class A3 Children's Recreational use at this time. *See picture below



While several comments were received for the Little Wapsipinicon River, the noted recreational uses did not justify a change in the recommended designation due to lack of frequency and observed uses. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for the Little Wapsipinicon River will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (NW ¼ of S3, T94N, R13W, Chickasaw County) to the confluence with Mead Creek (S1, T97N, R14W, Howard County)*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Lands Map for Little Wapsipinicon River



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Lizard Creek
Affected Facility: Pocahontas (494)
Dates: Field assessment – 8/15/06, 10/17/06

Public Comments:

Twelve comments were received for Lizard Creek. Eight of the twelve comments were for the downstream portion of Lizard Creek that is currently recommended for Primary Contact Recreational Use. The four remaining comments were phone interviews from an employee of the Pocahontas County Conservation Board. These comments were for the recommended Secondary Contact Recreational Use segment and stated that fishing once a month occurred at four areas that are owned by the Pocahontas County Conservation Board: Birke Wildlife Area, Lizard Creek Wildlife Area, Tobin Wildlife Preserve, and Whitetail Ridge Wildlife Area. No other recreational activities were mentioned in the interviews.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that Lizard Creek will be split into two different designations. Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for Lizard Creek from the confluence with an unnamed tributary (NE ¼ S31, T90N, R30W, Webster County) to the bridge crossing at 520th Street (N. Line S6, T91N, R32W, Pocahontas County) due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation Use (Class A3). The department recommends the Class A1 Primary Contact Recreational Use apply from the mouth (NW ¼ S19, T89N, R28W, Webster County) to the confluence with an unnamed tributary (NE ¼ S31, T90N, R30W, Webster County).

The comments received for Lizard Creek did not provide any additional information about the recommended Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreational Use portion that would result in a change in the recommended designation, because fishing is considered a Class A2 activity. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Lizard Creek will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the confluence with an unnamed tributary (NE ¼ S31, T90N, R30W, Webster County) to the bridge crossing at 520th Street (N. Line S6, T91N, R32W, Pocahontas County). Primary Contact Recreational Use (Class A1) will remain as recommended from the mouth (NW ¼ S19, T89N, R28W, Webster County) to the confluence with an unnamed tributary (NE ¼ S31, T90N, R30W, Webster County).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Long Branch Creek
Affected Facility: Stuart (433)
Dates: Field assessment – 7/13/06

Public Comments:

One survey was returned for Long Branch Creek from a Guthrie County Conservation Board employee. The survey stated that there were no known recreational uses taking place in Long Branch Creek in the assessed reach.

One internet survey was also returned about Long Branch Creek. It contained no data for the assessed reach of Long Branch Creek.

28 surveys were returned from private citizens, most being landowners (association members) of Diamondhead Lake. Only two gave information about the assessed reach of Long Branch Creek. One survey stated swimming occurred above Diamondhead Lake and one stated swimming and children's play occurred above Diamondhead Lake, but no specific locations were given. The other 26 comments pertained to the Diamondhead Lake portion of Long Branch Creek. Of these comments: 26 stated swimming, 25 stated children's play, 24 stated canoeing, 25 stated fishing, and 24 stated tubing occurs in Diamondhead Lake.

There were multiple pictures submitted of the fishing activities. These pictures showed multiple game-fish species that are caught throughout the year. Many of these comments also stated that the fish caught out of Diamondhead Lake are then consumed.

Analysis:

The previous assessment recommended that Long Branch Creek be designated as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation from the mouth (SW1/4, S12, T78N, R30W, Guthrie County) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (NW1/4, SW1/4, S27, T78N, R30W, Guthrie County) due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

Review of the current UAA recommendation, associated data collected in the field, and the comment received from the Guthrie County Conservation Board demonstrates that Long Branch Creek is shallow throughout the assessed reach and no evidence of recreational uses were found that would suggest children's play occurs commonly or at all.

The comments received for the creek portion of Long Branch Creek did not provide any additional information about the recommended Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreational Use portion that would result in a change in the recommended designation.

It should be noted that the portion of Long Branch Creek that is considered Diamondhead Lake was not assessed because it is a privately owned lake with no public access and the department does not normally designate lakes and wetlands that are located entirely on private property and are privately owned, and only when a lake or wetland is completely surrounded by privately owned land is it not normally considered for designation in the WQS. The public cannot gain access to such a waterbody by any means other than trespassing on private land, so the waterbody has not been considered for beneficial uses. Nevertheless, if a private landowner wished to petition the department to assess a private waterbody, such a waterbody could be designated for beneficial uses and included in the WQS.

The public comments received for Diamondhead Lake, in this situation, will be considered a valid petition to designate this portion of Long Branch Creek. Activities in this portion of Long Branch Creek were: swimming, children's play, canoeing, tubing, water skiing, boating, and fishing. These activities are consistent with Class A1 Primary Contact Recreational Use

Due to recent information the Department is modifying the original recommendations as detailed below:

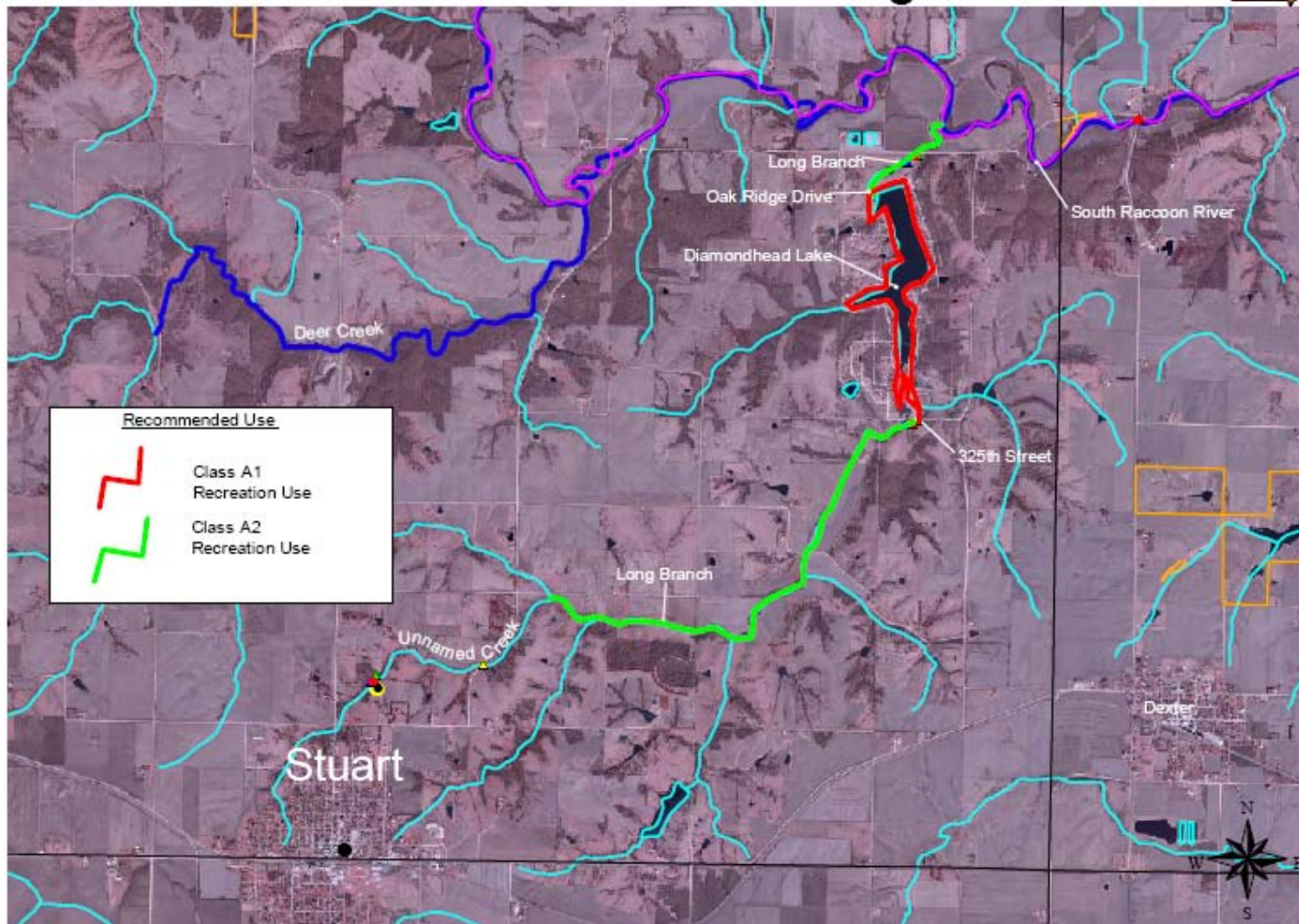
- Class A2, Secondary Contact Recreation from the mouth (SW ¼ S12, T78N, R30W, Guthrie County) to Diamondhead Lake Dam (NW ¼ S13, T78N, R30W, Guthrie County).*
- Class A1, Primary Contact Recreation from Diamondhead Lake Dam (NW ¼ S13, T78N, R30W, Guthrie County) to 325th Street (SW ¼ S24, T78N, R30W, Guthrie County).*
- Class A2, Secondary Contact Recreation from 325th Street (SW ¼ of S24, T78N, R30W, Guthrie County) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (NW ¼ S27, T78N, R30W, Guthrie County).*

Due to the many comments pertaining to the catching and consumption of multiple species of game-fish from Diamondhead Lake, the Department is also modifying the aquatic life designation as detailed below:

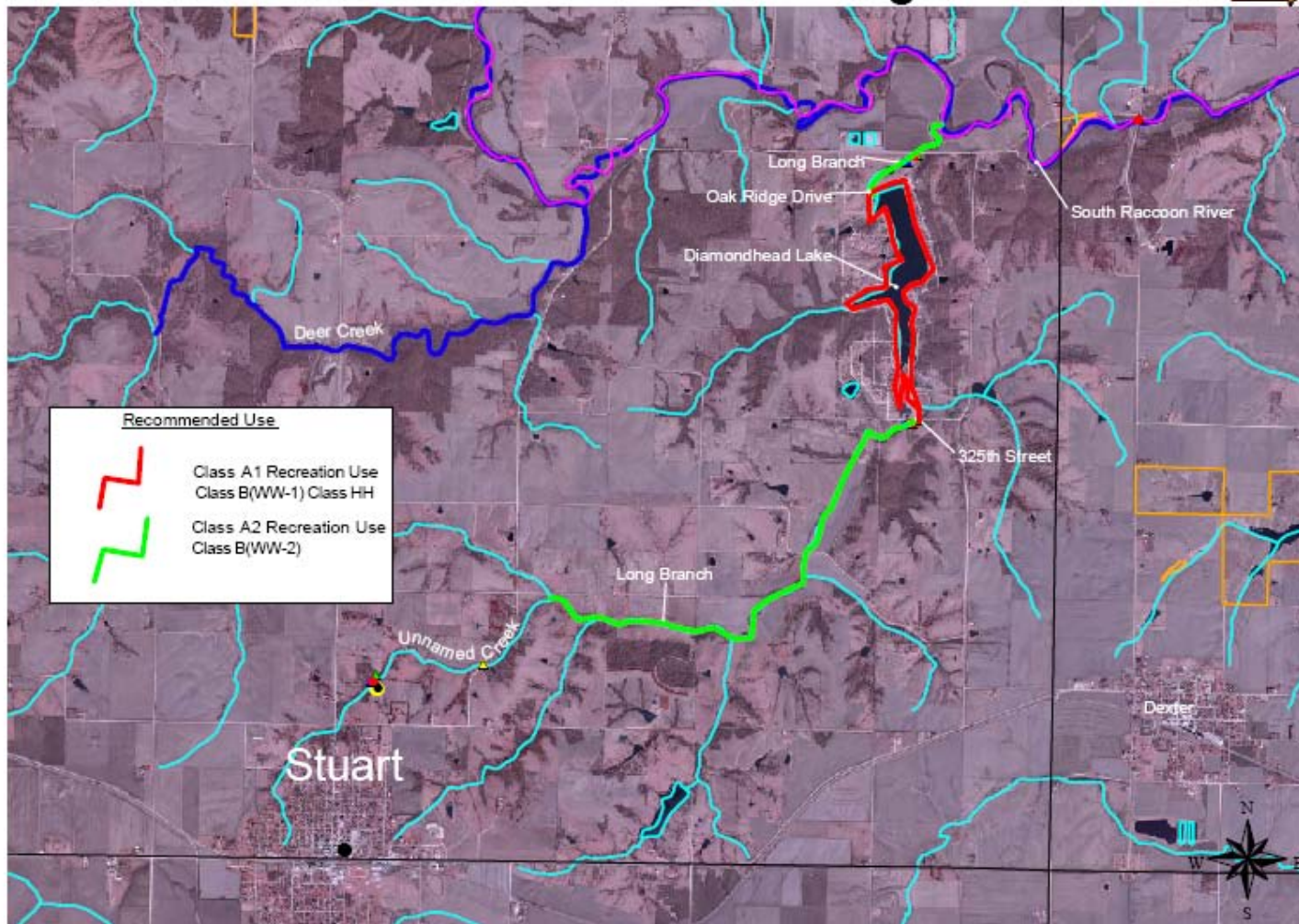
- Class B(LW) aquatic life designation, Class HH human health designation from Diamondhead Lake Dam (NW ¼ S13, T78N, R30W, Guthrie County) to 325th Street (SW ¼ S24, T78N, R30W, Guthrie County).*

* See recommendation map for details

Recommended Recreational Use - Long Branch



Recommended Recreational Use - Long Branch



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Lotts Creek
Affected Facility: Bode (759)
Dates: Field assessment – 11/14/06, Phone interviews - Dec. 07/ Jan. 08

Public Comments:

The department contacted the Humboldt County Conservation Board to acquire information regarding the recreational activities that have occurred in the Lotts Creek public area. A Humboldt County Conservation Board employee stated that fishing and tubing had occurred in the Lotts creek. Tubing was taking place from Montana to Michigan Avenue.

The Iowa DNR – Wildlife bureau was contacted about the Lotts Creek WMA. An IDNR employee stated that canoeing occurred a couple times per month and that there was a canoe access at the Lotts Creek WMA. This canoe access is actually on the East Fork Des Moines River. Fishing also occurred at this location several times per month.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for Lotts Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The comments received have indicated that multiple recreational uses occur within the assessed reach of Lotts Creek. During the 2006 field assessment, evidence of streamside or in-stream recreation typically consisted of ATV tracks, filleted fish remains, and graffiti under the bridge. The ATV tracks were along the banks at both sites and entering the stream at site 759-A. The comments received indicated that: tubing, canoeing, and fishing are common recreational uses taking place on Lotts Creek in the assessed reach.

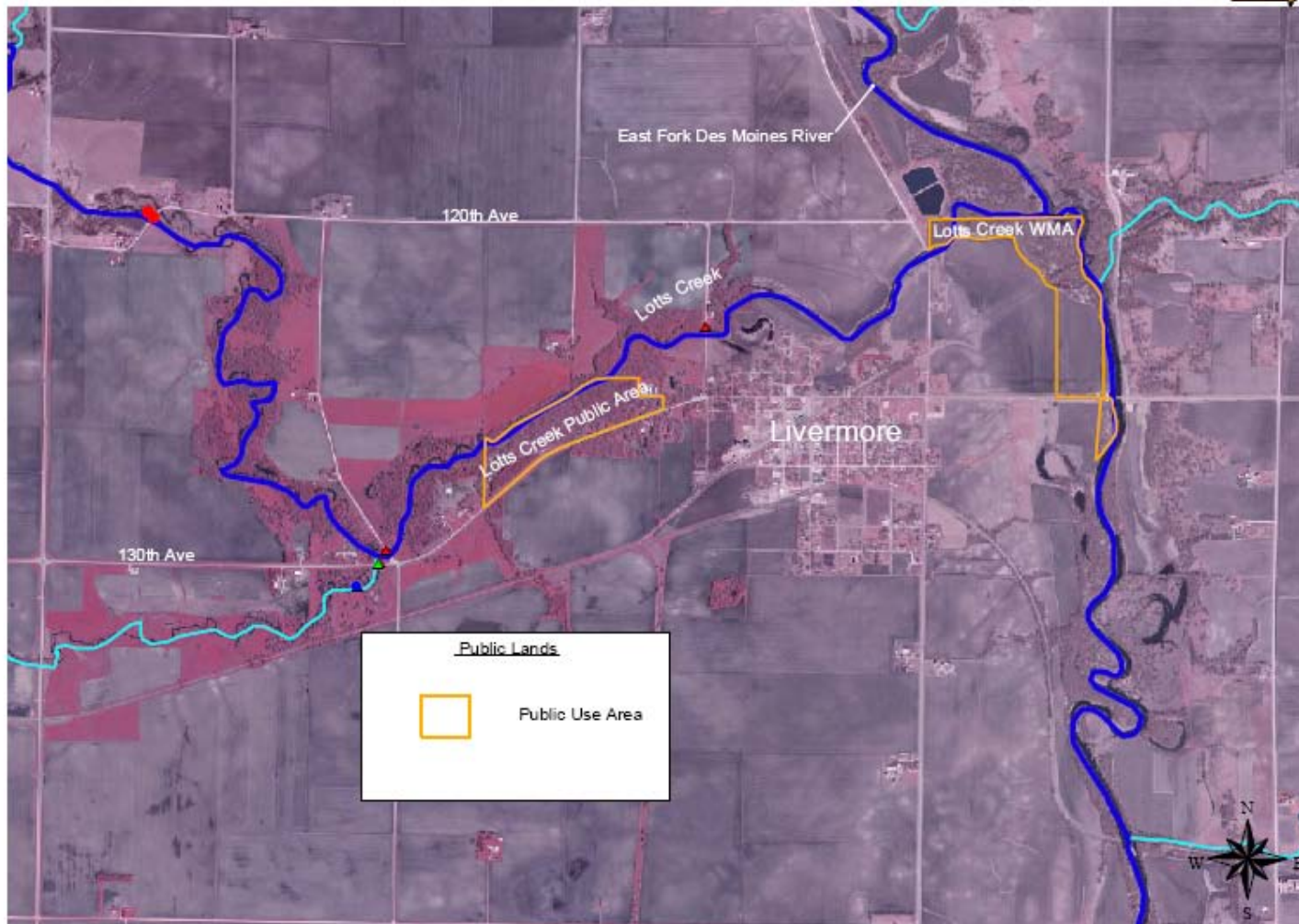
The activities of tubing and tubing are controversial in the sense that they can be considered consistent with multiple different classes of recreational uses. Review of the current UAA recommendation and associated data collected in the field demonstrates that Lotts Creek is shallow throughout the assessed reach (between 4-8 inches) and no evidence of recreational uses were found that would suggest this activity occurs commonly or is even possible at base flow condition (see picture below).



Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Lotts Creek will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (N. line, S17, T93N, R28W, Humboldt County) to the confluence with Trulner Creek (S13, T93N, R29W, Humboldt County). *

* See recommendation map

Public Lands - Lotts Creek



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Lux Creek
Affected Facility: Spring Valley Mobile Home Park WWTP (276)
Dates: Field assessment – 8/30/06, 10/25/06

Public Comments:

Two surveys from Jackson County employees were returned regarding recreational activities in Lux Creek. One survey stated that there were no known recreational activities occurring in the assessed reach, while the other survey stated that child's play has been observed occasionally near the town of St. Donatus and near Spring Valley Mobile Home Park.

Graffiti, old ATV tracks, and small fire pits were the only evidence of recreation found at any of the assessed sites during the field assessments.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for Lux Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The previous assessment of the river found no evidence of primary contact or children's recreation. Two sites demonstrated adequate depths for primary contact recreation during the initial assessment. One of the pools is in a cattle pasture and the other is surrounded by steep banks and rip-rap. These pools in the assessed reach are not expected to sustain conditions to support recreational or other uses that may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard associated with primary contact recreation, due to these pools being small and isolated. The majority of Lux Creek is shallow (See attached picture).



There was one comment concerning occasional children's recreation near St. Donatus and Spring Valley Mobile Home Park. Evidence of recreation, such as graffiti and fire pits, were found during the initial assessment near these locations; however, these activities are not expected to be frequent occurrences on the creek due to difficult access.

The comments received for Lux Creek did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Lux Creek will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (S7, T87N, R4E, Jackson County) to the road crossing of United States Highway 52 (NW ¼, NW ¼, S35, T88N, R3E, Dubuque County).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Mad Creek
Affected Facility: Clearview MHP Ripley's Inc. (488)
Dates: Field assessment – 10/23/06 and 9/14/06,
Survey(s)/Interview(s) – 07 and 9/14/06

Public Comments:

County Conservation Board Mailing

A recreational use survey concerning Mad Creek was returned by a Muscatine County Conservation Board employee. The survey indicated children playing in or near the creek has been observed. This type activity occurs approximately once a summer at various locations within the city limits of Muscatine. The survey also indicated that fishing takes place several times a summer, usually during periods of higher flow near the mouth of the creek.

Assessment Site Interview

Site 488-1:

A local homeowner stated that children play in the creek often.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Class A3 Children's Recreation designation was appropriate for Mad Creek due to its potential to attract elevated levels of children's recreation due to its location in and near urban areas. Both the county conservation board survey and site interview are specific to the segment of the creek recommended for children's recreation. Public comments, along with evidence found serve to further support the children's recreation recommendation for Mad Creek. Therefore, the department's recommendation of Class A3 Children's Recreation for Mad Creek will remain from the mouth (S36, T77N, R02W, Muscatine Co.) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (NE ¼, S13, T77N, R02W Muscatine Co.).*

* See recommendation map

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Maple River
Affected Facility: Mapleton (110)
Ida Grove (99)
Odebolt (386)
Dates: Field assessment – 10/17/06
Phone interviews – Dec/07, Jan/08

Public Comments:

There were 2 comments received for the assessed reach of the Maple River from county conservation employees and 35 comments received from the general public for a total of 37 comments.

The majority of the public comments were submitted by individuals from the Ida Grove, Mapleton, and Battle Creek areas. There were 23 comments that stated that swimming had been observed and 26 stating they had observed child's play. These recreational activities were primarily located at bridge crossings near the three cities' previously mentioned.

Canoeing and fishing were noted as recreational activities in nearly all the public comments. There were 33 that mentioned canoeing and 34 that mentioned fishing. These activities are observed on a regular basis throughout the summer months between Ida Grove and Castana.

A phone survey was conducted with a Monona County Conservation Board employee regarding the Schoenjahn Wildlife Area. The employee stated that the river is difficult to access in this area due to steep banks. Swimming or child's play has not been observed at this location. This area is scheduled to receive a canoe access but currently the area is not used as a put-in or take-out site for canoes due to inaccessibility. Fishing from the bridge has been observed at this location.

The director of Monona County Conservation submitted a survey regarding recreational activities on the Maple River. The survey stated that there are plans to construct two additional canoe access points due to the popularity of canoeing in the Maple River. Canoeing is observed regularly throughout the summer from Ida Grove to Castana. Fishing is also popular in the river near the inlets of feeder streams.

During the field assessment of the Maple River, recreational evidence was found at 5 of the 8 assessed sites. Evidence of water recreation and streamside recreation typically consisted of ATV tracks on the banks, footprints in or around the stream, fishing tackle or bait containers, graffiti under the bridges, and remnants of kids play.

Analysis:

The initial department recommendation concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for the Maple River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence and information to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The depth criteria guidelines used by the department to help determine if Primary Contact Recreational use (Class A1) is attainable typically will exclude streams that are not able to support a Class A1 use due to the overall lack of flow needed to support activities that result in direct and prolonged contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting appreciable quantities of water sufficient to pose a health hazard. While these guidelines are effective in most situations, there are cases where a stream demonstrates that it can support the Class A1 use despite the lack of flow that typically distinguishes a stream that can support Primary Contact Recreational uses.

The comments from the general public and local officials have indicated that multiple recreational uses occur throughout the Maple River, and the department observed evidence of recreational uses at 5 of the 8 assessed sites. The comments received describe the occurrence of activities consistent with all three of Iowa's recreational use designations.

The public comments were spread throughout the reach of the Maple River. These comments typically listed swimming, child's play, canoeing, and fishing occurring at most locations in proximity to towns, and the department found evidence of these activities at many of the sites during the initial field assessment. Canoeing was mentioned several times from Ida Grove to Castana. These locations stretch the majority of the assessed reach, and the Maple River is a canoe route from the mouth upstream to Ida Grove, according to the Iowa Stream Fishing and Canoe Guide.

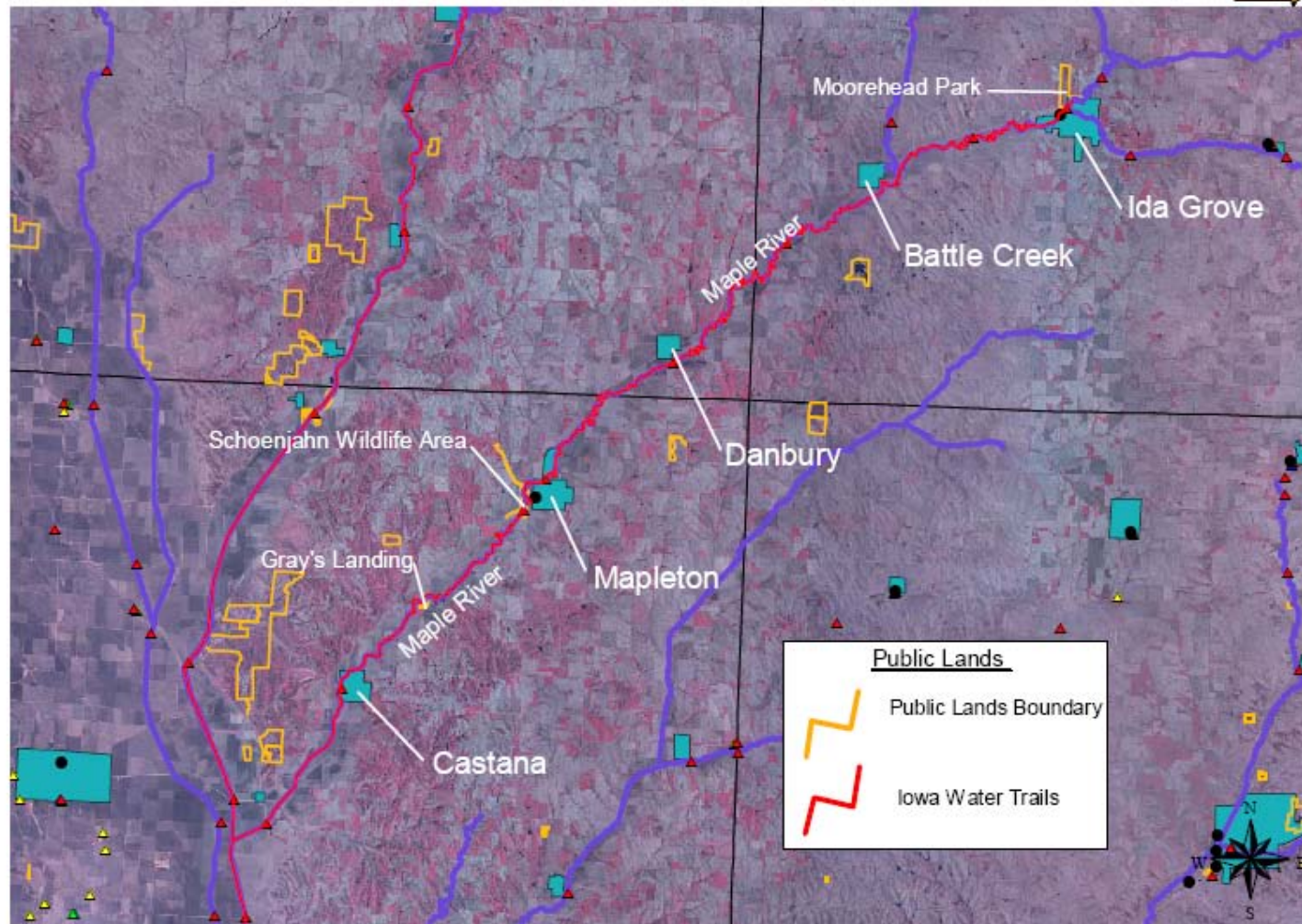
The department's initial recommendation noted that two sites possessed adequate maximum depths and two sites possessed adequate average depths to support Class A1 Primary Contact Recreational uses. While the Maple River did not meet the depth guidelines in full, the fact that some sites meet the average and maximum depth requirements help to support the public comments received at these locations.

Due to recent information the Department is modifying the original recommendations as detailed below.

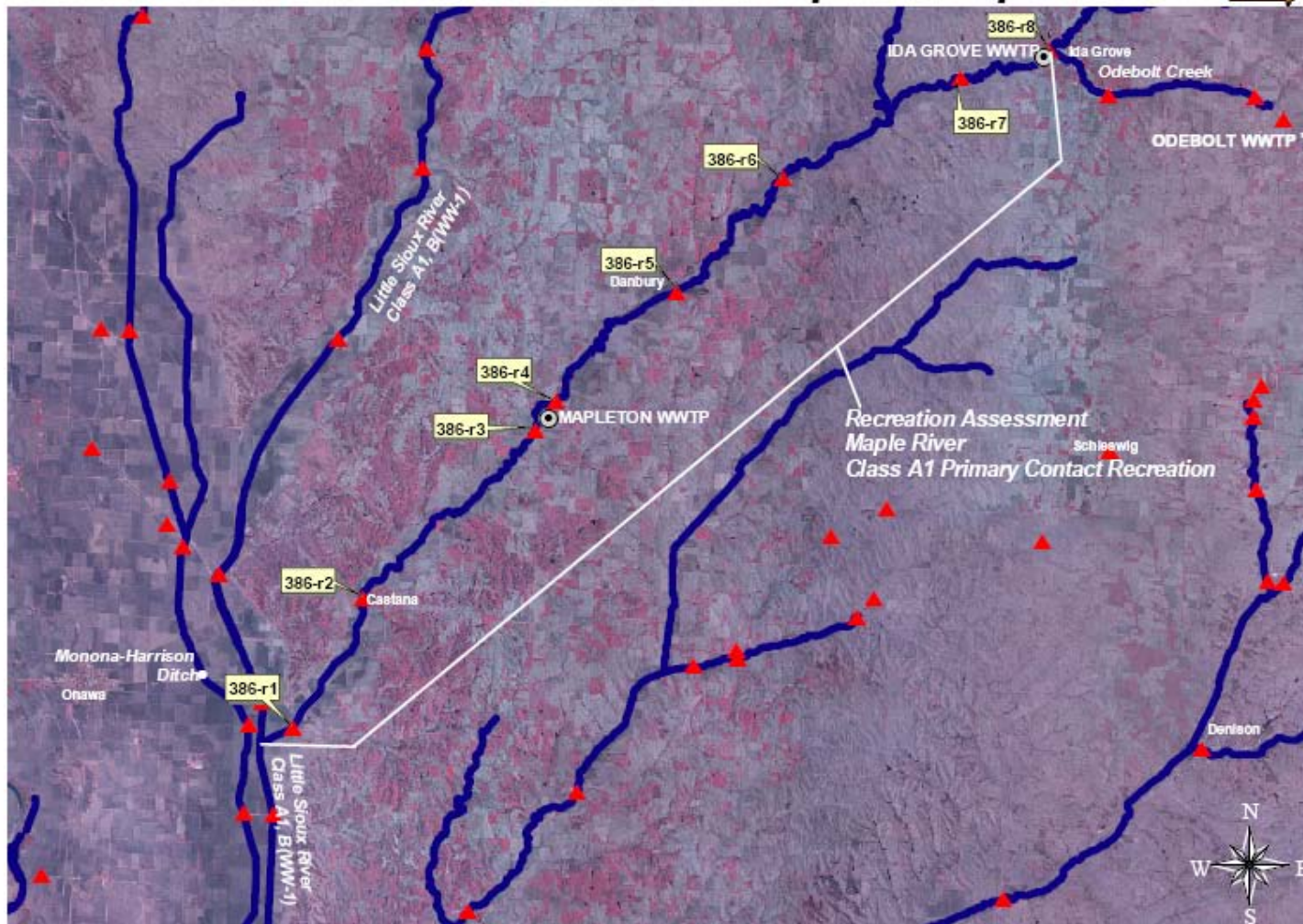
- Class A1, Primary Contact Recreation from the mouth of the Maple River (S17, T83N, R44W, Monona County) to Highway 59 (NE1/4, S15, T87N, R40W, Ida County). *

* See recommendation map

Public Lands for the Maple River



Recommended Recreational Use Map for Maple River



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Maquoketa River
Affected Facility: Associated Milk Producers, Inc. (551)
Backbone State Park – Cabins and Spillway (152)
Backbone State Park – Lower Area (256)
City of Strawberry Point – South (797)
Dates: Field assessment – 10/10/06, 10/19/06, and 10/26/06
Phone interviews - Dec. 07/ Jan. 08

Public Comments:

The department contacted the Delaware and Clayton County Conservation Boards to acquire information regarding the recreational activities that have occurred in the assessed reach of the Maquoketa River. 4 public use areas were commented on in the assessed reach: Joy Springs Trout, Joy Springs WMA, Joy Springs Park, and Camp EWALU. Fishing was present at all locations, while wading was commented on at Joy Springs Park and Camp EWALU. Children's play was stated to happen often at Camp EWALU, per the Program Director.

67 comments about the Maquoketa River were also received from the general public and local residents. Of the comments received, 14 pertained to the section of the Maquoketa River that is proposed for a designation change, downstream from Backbone State Park. Swimming, children's play, tubing, canoeing, wading, and fishing were recreational activities that were mentioned in the comments. The break-down of comments are as follows: 8 for swimming, 8 for children's play, 8 for tubing, 9 for canoeing, 14 for fishing, and 3 for wading. One comment was received for the portion of the Maquoketa River above Backbone State Park in the assessed reach near site 551-b. This comment stated that swimming, wading, fishing, tubing, and children's play have been seen in the Maquoketa River at this location.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for the Maquoketa River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The depth criteria guidelines used by the department to help determine if Primary Contact Recreational Use (Class A1) is attainable and typically will exclude streams that are not able to support a Class A1 use due to the overall lack of flow needed to support activities that result in direct and prolonged contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting appreciable quantities of water sufficient to pose a health hazard. While these guidelines are effective in most situations, there are cases where a stream demonstrates

that it can support the Class A1 use despite the lack of flow that typically distinguishes a stream that can support Primary Contact Recreational uses.

Analysis of the Maquoketa River from above the Quaker Mills Impoundment to the Backbone Lake Dam:

This portion of the Maquoketa River travels along the city of Dundee as well as through Dundee Park. The department conducted two assessments within this portion of the river. There were no people observed recreating in or near the stream during the field assessment, but evidence of recreational uses found. This evidence of uses consisted of a footpath along the stream, camping sites near the stream, fishing tackle, and BB's found under a bridge.

Many comments were received stating that swimming, children's play, tubing, canoeing, wading, and fishing were common recreational activities that take place throughout this segment of the Maquoketa River.

According to the Iowa Stream Fishing & Canoe Guide, the portion of the Maquoketa River downstream of Backbone State Park is listed as a designated canoe route and contains three public accesses.

Despite the marginal flows, primary contact recreational uses are considered attainable for this segment of river taking into consideration the borderline depths found during the initial assessment within this portion of Hardin Creek and public comments that suggest activities consistent with Class A1 Primary Contact Recreational Use.

Analysis of the Maquoketa River from the confluence with the South Fork Maquoketa River to Highway 3:

This portion of the Maquoketa River flows through the following public access areas: Joy Springs Park, Joy Springs Wildlife Management Area, Joy Springs Trout Stream, and Backbone State Park. The ability to access the stream in this area increases the possibility or frequency of people coming into contact with the water as evidenced by the public comments received.

There was one comment received for this portion of the Maquoketa River that stated that swimming, wading, fishing, tubing, and children's play have been observed.

During the department's field assessment three sites were assessed. There were no people observed recreating in the stream at the time of the assessment, but evidence of recreational uses was found. This evidence consisted of footpaths, fishing tackle and mud graffiti on the bridge. It was also noted that picnic areas, camping sites and a playground were all within relatively close proximity to the stream channel.

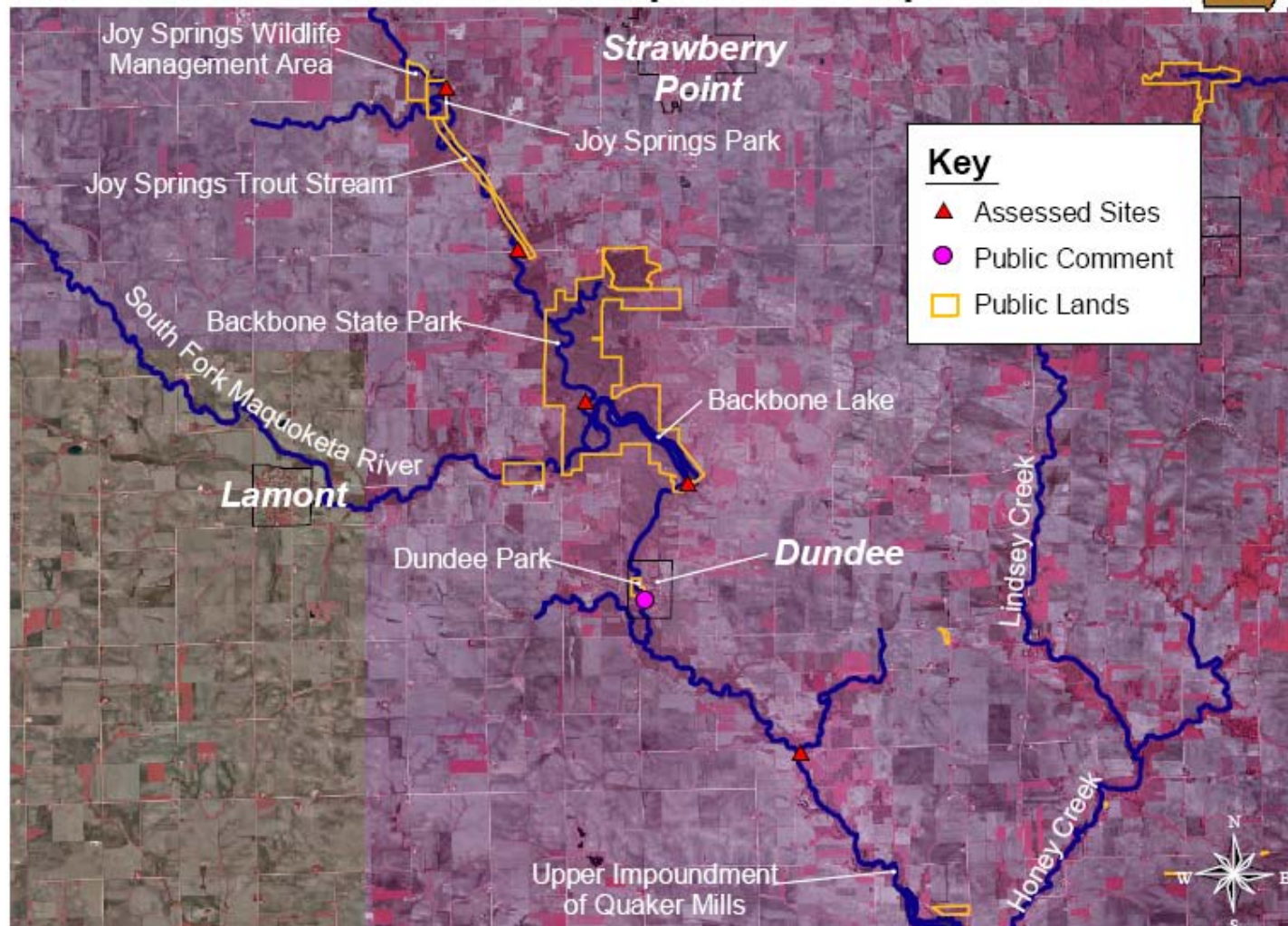
Upstream from Backbone State Park there is a church camp (EWALU) which is located near Joys Springs Park. The campers have direct access to the Maquoketa River and the area is used as an outdoor education area. Approximately 10,000 visitors are hosted by the camp annually. Another comment received from the area of site 551-b, stated, swimming, wading, fishing, and children's play take place commonly in the Maquoketa River at and around this location. This statement further supports the aforementioned children's play comments for the assessed reach above Backbone State Park.

Due to recent information the Department is modifying the original recommendations as detailed below.

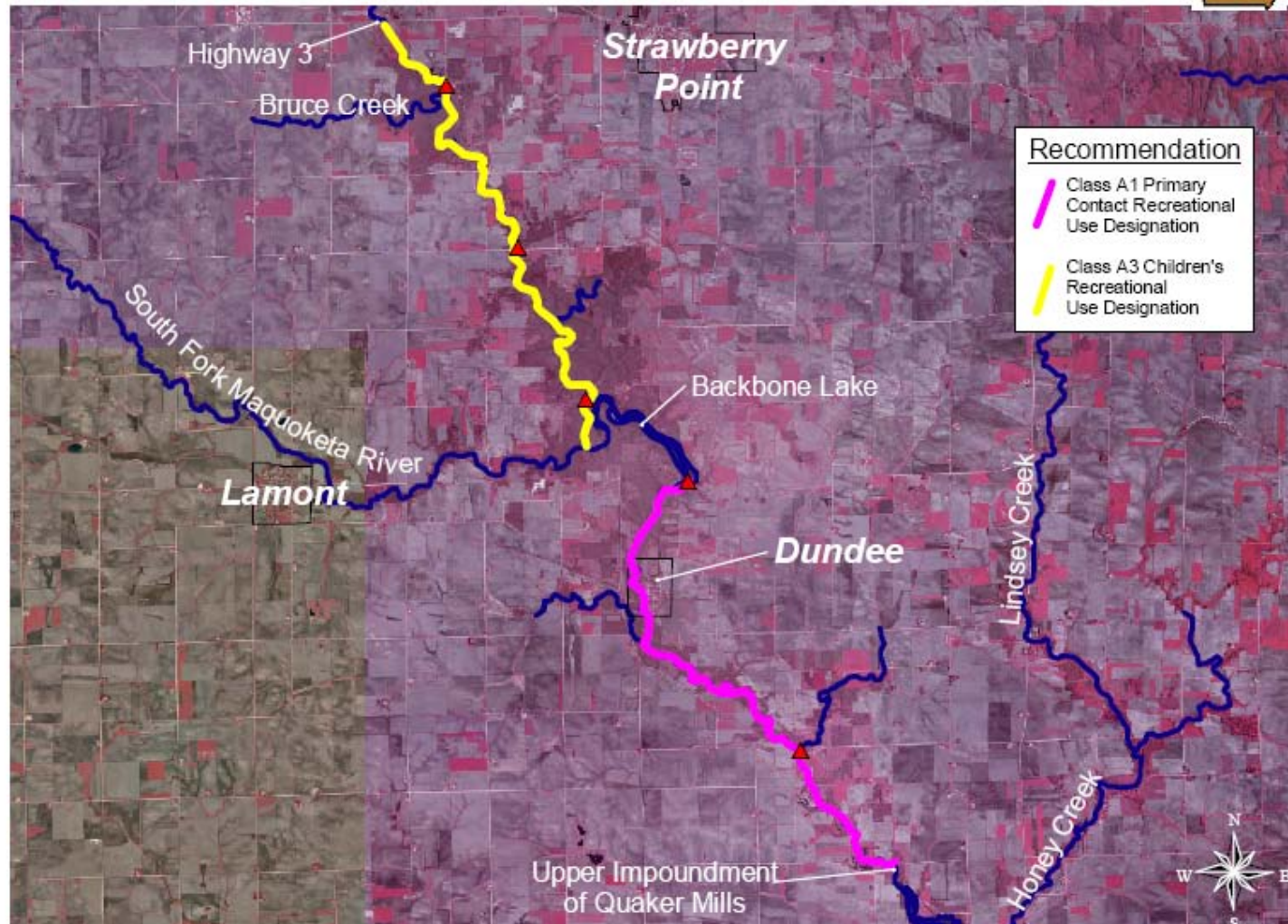
- Class A1, Primary Contact Recreation from above Quaker Mills Impoundment (N. Line S18, T89N, R5W, Delaware Co.) to Backbone Lake Dam (S15/S22, T90N, R6W, Delaware Co.).
- Class A3, Children's Recreation from the confluence of South Fork Maquoketa River (S16, T90N, R6W, Delaware Co.) to Hwy 3(N. Line S24, T91N, R7W, Fayette Co.).

* See recommendation map

Public Lands and Comment Map for the Maquoketa River



Recommendation for Recreational Use Designation for the Maquoketa River



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: McDonald Creek
Affected Facility: Parkview (506)
Dates: Field assessment – 9/22/06

Public Comments:

One survey was returned for McDonald Creek from a Scott County Conservation Board employee. The survey stated that there was limited recreational usage by canoeing up McDonald Creek from the Wapsipinicon River.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for McDonald Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

During the field assessment, one pool was found to have adequate depth for Primary Contact Recreation (Class A1). The pool was isolated in a small scour hole below a tree snag. Primary Contact Recreation is not considered attainable for this location due to the fact that this situation was small, isolated, and temporary; not indicative of Unnamed Creek as a whole.

There was the only comment received regarding recreational activities on McDonald Creek. This comment stated that canoeing took place in McDonald Creek in the past. The activity of canoeing is controversial in the sense that it could be considered consistent with either Class A1 or Class A2 type uses. Review of the current UAA recommendation and associated data collected in the field demonstrates that McDonald Creek is shallow throughout the assessed reach and no evidence of recreational uses were found that would suggest this activity occurs commonly or is even possible at base flow condition (see picture below).



The comments received for McDonald Creek did not provide any additional information that would warrant a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for McDonald Creek will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (S5, T80N, R4E, Scott County) to the confluence of the Unnamed Creek (SE1/4, SW1/4, S24, T80N, R3E, Scott County).

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Mead Creek
Affected Facility: Elma (443)
Dates: Field assessment - 8/10/06

Public Comments:

One survey was submitted by a private citizen for Mead Creek. The survey stated that there were no known recreational uses taking place in Mead Creek in the assessed reach. The survey also stated that minnow seining and trapping may occur because of Mead Creek's proximity to the city of Elma. No definitive recreation activities were noted.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for Mead Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The comments received for Mead Creek did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Mead Creek will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (S1, T79N, R14W, Howard County) to the Garden Road Bridge Crossing (E. line S1, T79N, R14W, Howard County).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Middle Creek
Affected Facility: City of New Sharon (231)
Dates: Field assessment - 9/20/06 & 10/31/06

Public Comments:

One survey was returned for Middle Creek from a Mahaska County Conservation Board employee. The survey stated that no known swimming uses takes place in Middle Creek in the assessed reach. The survey also stated that once a month children are observed playing in the creek, and once a year canoeing is observed in Middle Creek. No specific locations for children's play or canoeing were noted. Fishing was noted as the most common form of recreation found in Middle Creek. The survey stated that people are regularly seen fishing the lower portions of the creek.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for Middle Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The field work assessment of Middle Creek showed evidence of recreational uses consisting of graffiti under the bridge at site (231-a) and at site (231-b) foot prints and graffiti were found under the bridge along with a foot path leading to the creek. Most evidence found during the field assessments and the survey from the Mahaska County Conservation Board suggests uses consistent with Class A2. Although children have been seen in the creek, the overall lack of evidence combined with the unknown frequency and specific locations of use do not suggest that a Class A3 Children's Recreational Use designation is warranted at this time.

It should be noted that the Department continually updates the water quality standards for Iowa. This can include follow-up studies regarding Use Attainability Analyses to incorporate latest and any new information to ensure the uses of Iowa's waters are reflected appropriately in the Water Quality Standards.

The comments received for Middle Creek did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Middle Creek will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (S35, T76N, R14W, Mahaska County) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (S26, T77N, R16W, Mahaska County).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Middle Fork Grand River
Affected Facility: Mount Ayr (503)
Dates: Field assessment - 9/7/06 and 5/4/06,
Survey(s)/Interview(s) – 12/07 and 5/06

Public Comments:

Assessment Site Interview

Site 503-2:

A streamside landowner was interviewed at the time of assessment. They stated that they had never seen anyone in the river except for the DNR staff assessing the river.

Online Survey/Email

A landowner in Ringgold County contacted the department via email. The email indicated that the landowner, along with their family, use the river for wading and swimming. The landowner also stated that they have observed other rural residents and their children using the river for wading and swimming.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreational Use designation was appropriate for the Middle Fork Grand River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use designation and the overall lack of evidence and information to justify a Class A3 Children's Recreation designation.

One public comment provided information that provided evidence of swimming and children's recreation taking place on the river. The landowner stated that he owned land next to the river in section 30 (next to the Iowa/Missouri State Line). It is assumed that this is the location for where the comments are intended. Assessment site 503-1 was located at the only crossing near section 30. During the initial assessment no evidence of recreation was found at this location or any other in the assessed reach of the river.

During the assessment of the river, one average depth measurement of 24 inches at site 503-1 demonstrated adequate depth for primary contact recreation. However the stream was slightly elevated approximately 2-3 inches at this location. The areas that contained this depth was less than 50% of the assessed reach and did not meet the guidelines used by the department to determine attainability of primary contact recreation. This location also contained snags that would further inhibit primary contact recreation. (see pictures)

Site 503-1



503-1 Elevated flows and instream debris



503-1 Elevated flows

No evidence of children's recreation was found in the assessed reach. The stream flows through primarily rural agricultural areas and has difficult accessibility. A small portion of the upper extent of the river is contained within the City limits of Mount Ayr; however this area does not have any streamside residents or potential for frequent access. Although children's recreation is said to have occurred the low frequency of use in addition to the lack of evidence does not support a recommendation of Class A3 at this time.

Public comments did not provide any additional information that would result in a change of the recommendation. Therefore, the department's recommended designation will remain as Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreational Use for the Middle Fork Grand River from the Iowa-Missouri state line (South line of S30, T67N, R30W, Ringgold Co.) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of S7, T68N, R29W, Ringgold Co.).*

* See recommendation map

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Middle Nodaway River
Affected Facility: Villisca (111), Fontanelle (390)
Dates: Field assessment – 09/09/05, 11/07/06

Public Comments:

Three surveys were returned for the Middle Nodaway River from County Conservation Board employees and two surveys from the general public. Four of the surveys stated that they have never observed child's play or swimming activities taking place on the Middle Nodaway River, however there were comments relating to the use of canoes, kayaks, and occasional fishing trips within the assessed reaches. One of the general public surveys stated that in the 1970's he and his friends used to swim between survey sites 22-4 and 22-6.

Two of the surveys completed by County Conservation Board employees stated that there was canoeing and kayaking in the stream at least once per year as depths will allow between sites 22-5 and 390-A. One of the surveys also stated that this area was used mostly for ATV and snowmobile trails as the stream is located in a mostly rural and isolated location.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use Class A2 designation was appropriate for Middle Nodaway River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 Primary Contact Recreational Use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation Class A3.

The stream is too shallow to support Class A1 Primary Contact Recreational uses; however, signs of Class A2 Secondary Recreation uses were observed, including trapping and minnow seining. Class A2 Secondary Recreational uses are expected to occur on this stretch of the stream. While the comments suggest recreation such as canoeing and kayaking in Middle Nodaway River, they are not consistent with the findings in the field assessment due to the average depths that were collected throughout the river. Of the 9 assessment sites conducted by the department, only 2 of 18 sites were sampled above the 19 inch average suggested for Class A1 Primary Contact and only 2 of the 18 sites were sampled above the 39 inch maximum suggested for Class A1 Primary Contact Recreation. It can be concluded that while there may be sites in the approximately 45 mile stretch of river that can be canoed or kayaked, it is not expected to be a common occurrence as documented by comments from the county conservation boards.

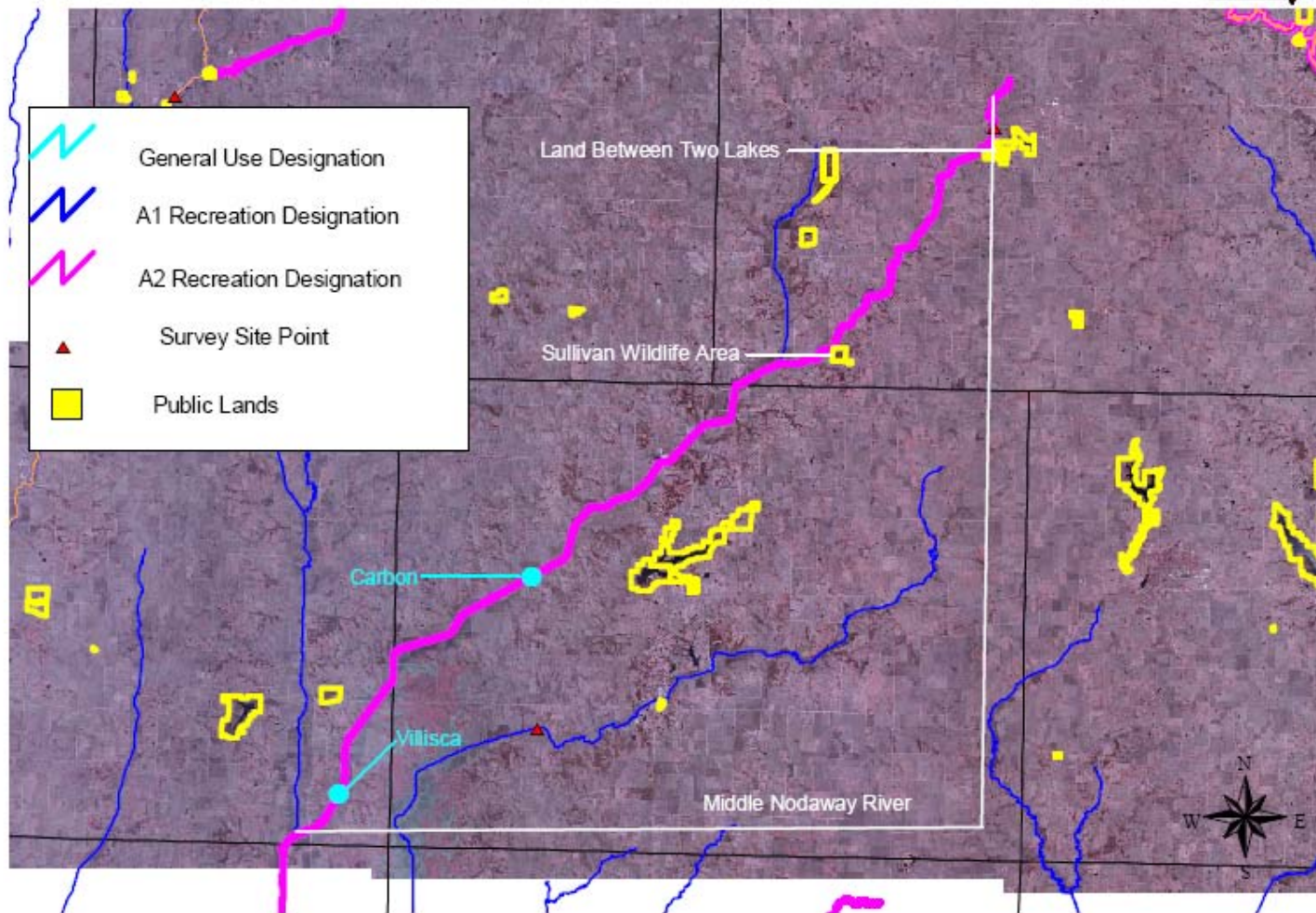


(Examples of the Middle Nodaway River from sites 22-3, 22-4, 390-A, and 22-6)

The surveys returned to the department described recreational uses such as canoeing and kayaking from survey sites 22-4 to 390-A. The surveys suggested that these activities may only occur once or twice a year as the river may not be able to support this type of activity throughout the year due to low flows. The above pictures are examples of the river in the fall of 2007. The depths from sites 22-3, 22-4, 22-6, and 390-A range from an average of 2 to 6 inches with maximum depths ranging from 6 to 18 inches.

The comments received for Middle Nodaway River did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Middle Nodaway River will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use Class A2 from the mouth (S33, T71N, R36W, Montgomery Co.) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (S1, T75N, R32W, Adair Co.).

Public Lands Map - Middle Nodaway River



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Middle Raccoon River
Affected Facilities: IDOT Carroll (4) and City of Carroll (66)
Dates: Field assessment - 6/5/06 and 6/6/06,
Survey(s)/Interview(s) – 12/07, 11/07, 4/07, 5/07, and 7/07

Public Comments:

County Conservation Board Mailing/Phone Survey

A recreational use survey concerning the Middle Raccoon River was returned by a Carroll County Conservation Board employee. The survey indicated the following: children swim in and play in or near the river within the City of Carroll in Rolling Hills Park; kayaking has been observed once a few miles north of the river's confluence with Willey Branch; and fishing, seining, and trapping minnows has been observed in the City of Carroll. A recreational use phone survey was conducted with an employee of the Carroll County Conservation Board concerning the segment of river flowing through Mid-Prairie Park and the Sauk Rail Trail. The survey indicated the following:

Mid-Prairie Park

No swimming observed, but access to river available though difficult in certain locations; and fishing, seining, and trapping minnows occurs in deeper holes of the river.

Sauk Rail Trail

Wading occurs, river not deep enough for full body emersion; children assumed to play in or near the stream once in a while during the summer, but not observed; trail is highly used and water is very accessible, the trail crosses the stream many times; minnow trapping and seining often, fishing takes place in some areas downstream.

Online Survey/Email/Mail

Five surveys/public comments were received by the department from residents of Iowa. One survey was concerning the Lake Panorama portion of the river and is not part of the assessed reach.

Another survey indicated that frequent paddle trips occur on branches of the Raccoon River but they did not specify where this activity takes place on the Middle Raccoon River.

An additional survey indicated that fishing is an activity on the river.

A survey filled out by a resident of Carroll indicated the following: swimming or water play that might result in the ingestion of water occurs two times a year during low water site assessments and river cleanups; children play in or near the stream weekly during warmer weather; and a school survey concerning the segment of river flowing through or near the Sauk Rail Trail and a park within the City of Carroll was taken among 425 students grades 1 through 12 of the local school and indicated the following: 92 said they

have played in the water where water may have been ingested; 170 said they have seen children playing in or near the stream; 37 have gone canoeing or kayaking on this stretch of the river; 26 have gone tubing on this stretch; 73 have gone fishing seining or trapping minnows; and 25 said they have eaten fish caught in the river.

Sixteen online surveys were filled out by residents of Iowa. All of these surveys were concerning areas not in the assessed reach of the river.

Analysis:

The initial department recommendation concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for the Middle Raccoon River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence and information to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

Segment 1: Confluence with Willey Branch to Grant Road

Public comments have provided evidence of kayaking occurring once a few miles upstream of the mouth and fishing as well. During the initial assessment of the river no depths were considered adequate for primary contact recreation based on the department guidelines used to determine the attainability of primary contact recreation nor was there any evidence of use that would support primary contact recreation.

The average depths ranged from 7 to 11 inches and maximum depths ranged from 9 to 17 inches. Furthermore, the stream was elevated approximately 4 to 6 inches at the time of assessment.

It is assumed that the one comment that specified kayaking took place when the river was above summer base flow conditions. At summer base flow conditions, this segment does not demonstrate the conditions to support activities associated with primary contact recreation.(see picture)



Site 4-1 Downstream recreation site looking downstream

The comments received for this segment of the Middle Raccoon River did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation.

Therefore the department's recommended designation for this segment of the Middle Raccoon River will remain as follows:

Class A2, Secondary Contact Recreation from the confluence with Wiley Branch (S26, T83N, R34W, Carroll Co.) to the road crossing on Grant Road (West line, S30, T84N, R34W, Carroll Co.).*

Segment 2: Grant Road to confluence with Unnamed Creek

Evidence of children's recreation was found during the initial assessment within the city limits of Carroll (footpaths/prints) however this activity was not expected to be a frequent occurrence on the river due to difficult accessibility.

Comments from the county conservation board indicated children's recreation occurs in Rolling Hills Park within the City limits of Carroll. Public comment from one resident indicated swimming occurs during river cleanups and Iowater site assessments. A survey taken among students of a local school concerning the area of stream around the Sauk Rail Trail and a city park; the survey indicated the following: 92 said they have played in the water where water may have been ingested; 170 said they have seen children playing in or near the stream; 37 have gone canoeing or kayaking on this stretch of the river; 26 have gone tubing on this stretch; and 73 have gone fishing seining or trapping minnows. It was difficult to discern whether the survey pertained to the whole area of the stream next to the Sauk Trail or the area within the city limits of Carroll (approximately 4 miles of the river runs next to the Sauk Trail outside the city limits of Carroll) due to the lack of specificity in the school survey. Public comments, evidence found during the initial assessment, and location of the river near residential areas of the city of Carroll indicate children's recreation is regularly occurring.

Due to recent information the Department is modifying the original recommendations as detailed below:

Class A3, Children's Recreation from the road crossing on Grant Road (West line, S30, T84N, R34W, Carroll Co.) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek #2 (SE ¼, SE ¼, S15, T84N, R35W, Carroll Co.).*

Segment 3: Confluence with Unnamed Creek #2 to confluence with Unnamed Creek #1

During the department's initial assessment no evidence of recreation was found in this segment of the river nor were depths capable of supporting primary contact recreation during the department's initial assessment. Average depths ranged from 10 to 12 inches and maximum depths ranged from 13 to 14 inches well below the guidelines used by the department in determining the attainability of primary contact recreation. (see picture)



Site 4-4 Downstream recreation site looking upstream

As mentioned before, a survey was taken among students of a local school concerning the area of stream around the Sauk Rail Trail and a city park; the survey indicated the following: 92 said they have played in the water where water may have been ingested; 170 said they have seen children playing in or near the stream; 37 have gone canoeing or kayaking on this stretch of the river; 26 have gone tubing on this stretch; and 73 have gone fishing seining or trapping minnows. It was difficult to discern whether the survey pertained to the whole area of the stream next to the Sauk Trail or the area within the city limits of Carroll (approximately 4 miles of the river runs next to the Sauk Trail outside the city limits of Carroll) due to lack of specificity in the school survey. County Conservation Board Comments indicate children's recreation is assumed to take place along the Sauk Trail but has not been observed. Site 4-4 was located next to the Sauk Trail in this segment. No evidence of recreation was found.

Although the school survey indicated children's recreation may be taking place along the Sauk Trail, it is difficult to determine exactly where along the extensive trail the activities are taking place and if the activities are a regular occurrence in this segment to warrant a Class A3 Children's Recreation Use designation.

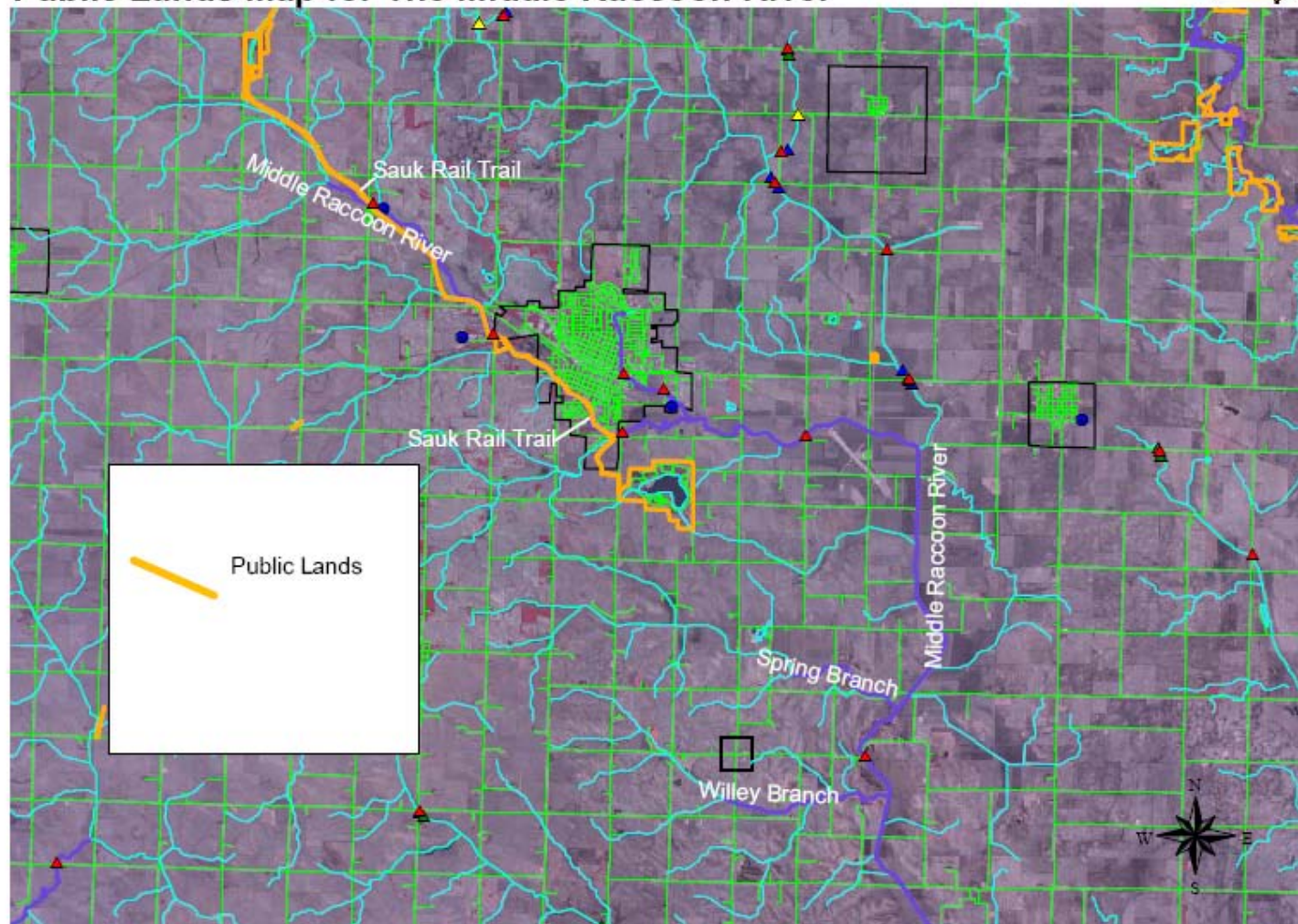
The comments received for this segment of the Middle Raccoon River did not provide enough additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore the department's recommended designation for this segment of the Middle Raccoon River will remain as follows:

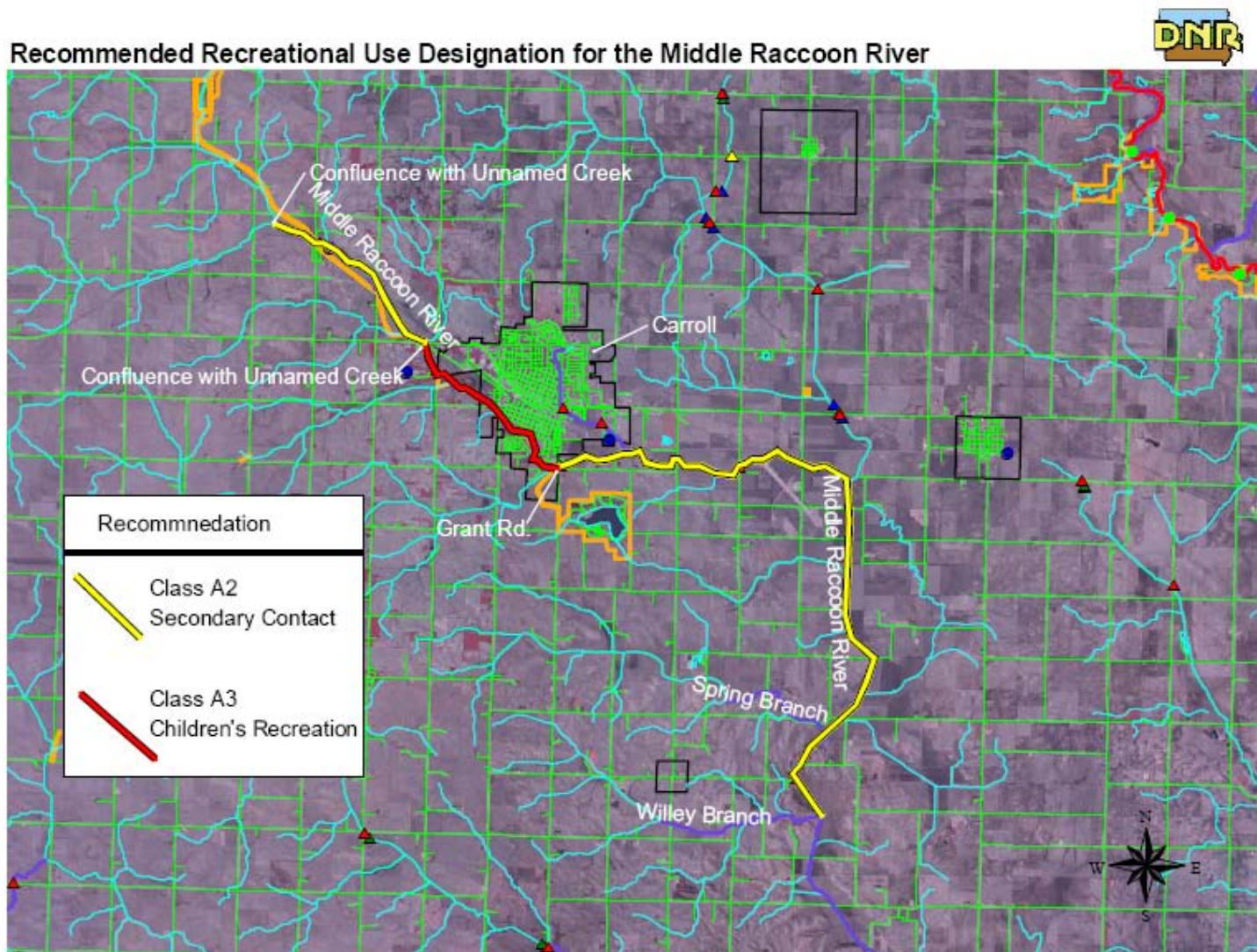
Class A2, Secondary Contact Recreation from the confluence with Unnamed Creek #2 (SE ¼, SE ¼, S15, T84N, R35W, Carroll Co.) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek #1 (S8, T84N, R35W, Carroll Co.).*

*See recommendation Map

It should be noted that the department continually updates water quality standards for Iowa. This can include follow-up studies regarding Use Attainability Analyses to incorporate the latest and any new information to ensure the uses of Iowa's waters are reflected appropriately in the Water Quality Standards.

Public Lands Map for The Middle Raccoon River





Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Middle River
Affected Facility(s): City of Adair (203)
City of Casey (11)
Adair – Casey Community School District (244)
City of Winterset (107)
City of Indianola - North (14)
City of Hartford (221)
Dates: Field assessment – 9/14/2005, 3/20/2006, 5/5/2006, 11/16/2006
Phone interviews - Dec. 07/ Jan. 08

Public Comments:

There were 8 comments received for the assessed reach of the Middle River from county conservation or Iowa DNR employees and 16 comments received from the general public for a total of 24 comments.

The 16 comments submitted from the general public were all from different locations along the Middle River. Two comments were received from Warren County residents. One of the surveys was from the Carlisle area who noted fishing as being the only observed recreational use at this location. A Bevington resident noted fishing and some kayaking.

There were 13 comments that referred to recreational activities in Madison County. These comments gave various locations throughout the county with the majority concentrated in the segment of river upstream of Winterset. Swimming, child's play, canoeing/kayaking, and fishing are commonly participated in and observed in Madison County. Pammel State Park is noted as a popular spot by many of the surveys.

There was one survey returned regarding Guthrie County recreation. This comment listed a location upstream from our designated area and is therefore unaffected by this assessment. One comment that was received described child's play and swimming on a daily basis but gave no specific location, address, or county.

4 of the 8 comments from county or state employees were phone interviews regarding public access areas along the Middle River. An Iowa DNR employee was contacted about Banner Flats Wildlife Management Area and Summerset State Park. Swimming and child's play has not been observed at either location. Canoeing is observed rarely, twice a month, at Summerset State Park and has not been observed at Banner Flats WMA. Fishing has been observed at both locations along with some fur harvesting at Banner Flats WMA.

An Adair County Conservation employee was contacted regarding the Middle River Forest Area and the Wright Timber Wildlife Area. Canoeing and fishing have both been observed at the Wright Timber Wildlife Area. Swimming, child's play, canoeing, and

fishing have all been observed at the Middle River Forest Area. This location is also a canoe access location.

Surveys were returned from County Conservation employees from Warren, Madison Adair, and Guthrie counties. Guthrie County has noted that canoeing and fishing are observed but are rare occurrences in the county. The Warren, Madison, and Adair county surveys have all stated that swimming, child's play, canoeing and fishing occur on a regular basis through the spring, summer, and fall months throughout the entire stretch of the Middle River.

There were signs of use at 14 of the 16 assessed sights on the Middle River. These signs of uses found include footprints, fishing tackle, remnants of kids play, fire pits, ATV tracks, graffiti, broken clay pigeons, and set furbearer traps. ATV tracks were the most common type of evidence found.

Analysis:

The initial department recommendation concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for the Middle River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence and information to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The depth criteria guidelines used by the department to help determine if Primary Contact Recreational use (Class A1) is attainable typically will exclude streams that are not able to support a Class A1 use due to the overall lack of flow needed to support activities that result in direct and prolonged contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting appreciable quantities of water sufficient to pose a health hazard. While these guidelines are effective in most situations, there are cases where a stream demonstrates that it can support the Class A1 use despite the lack of flow that typically distinguishes a stream that can support Primary Contact Recreational uses.

The comments from the general public and local officials have indicated that multiple recreational uses occur throughout the Middle River, and the department observed evidence of recreational uses at 14 of the 16 assessed sites on the river during the field assessment in 2005 and 2006. The comments received describe the occurrence of activities consistent with all three of Iowa's recreational use designations.

There appears to be little recreation occurring in the Middle River in Guthrie County according to a resident from the area and has been confirmed by a Guthrie County employee. Due to the lack of flow and evidence of current recreational uses; Secondary Contact Recreation (Class A2) is still considered the appropriate designation for this segment.

The segment of the Middle River from the mouth to the northern boundary of Adair County has displayed the ability to support Primary Contact uses throughout the reach

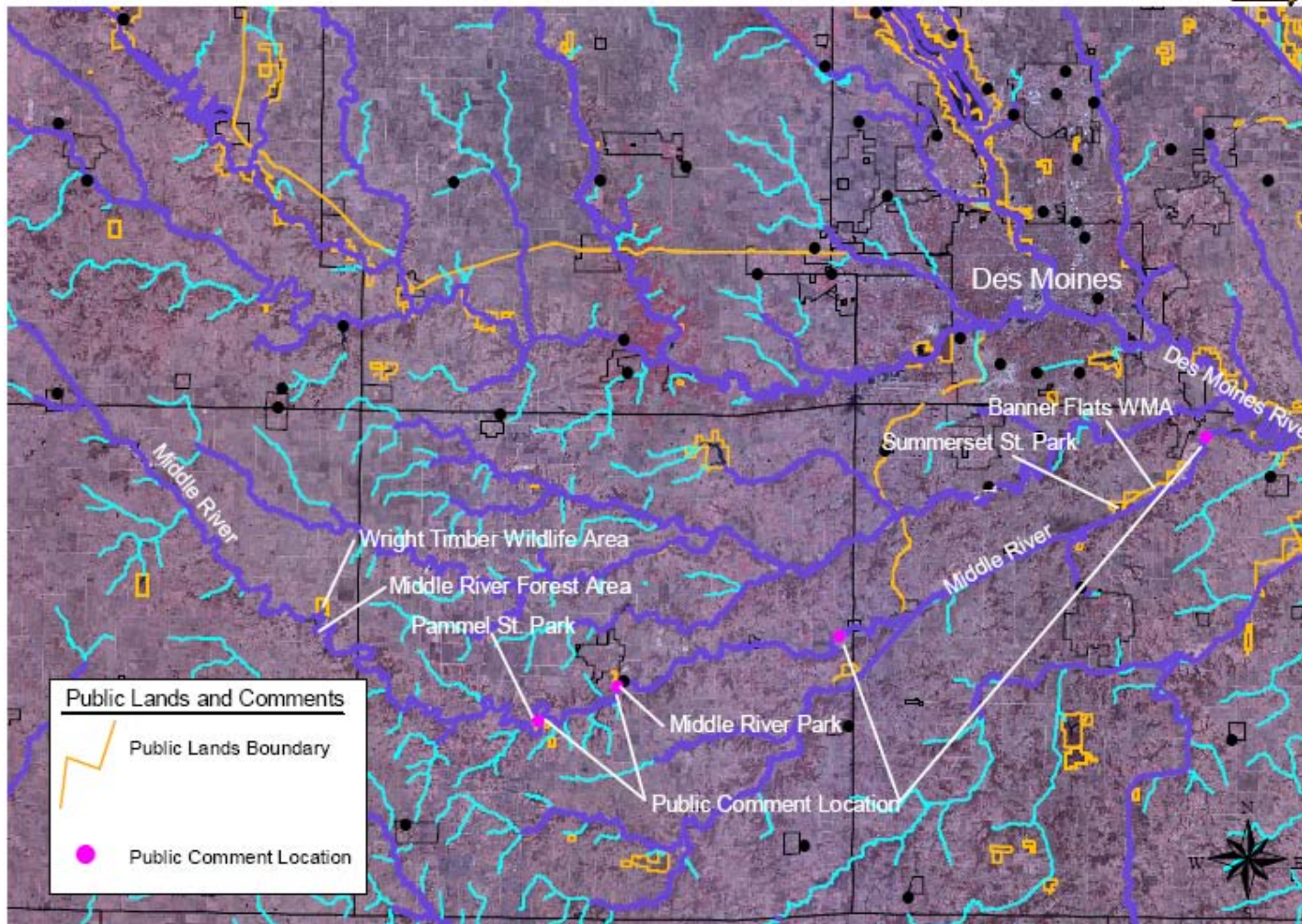
despite marginal flow conditions. The numerous comments describing the regularly occurring recreational uses coupled with the recreational evidence found during the initial assessment has shown this ability regardless of depth. In addition, this segment of the Middle River also has four canoe accesses listed in the Iowa Stream Fishing and Canoe Guide and is also considered an Iowa Water Trail.

Due to recent information the Department is modifying the original recommendations as detailed below.

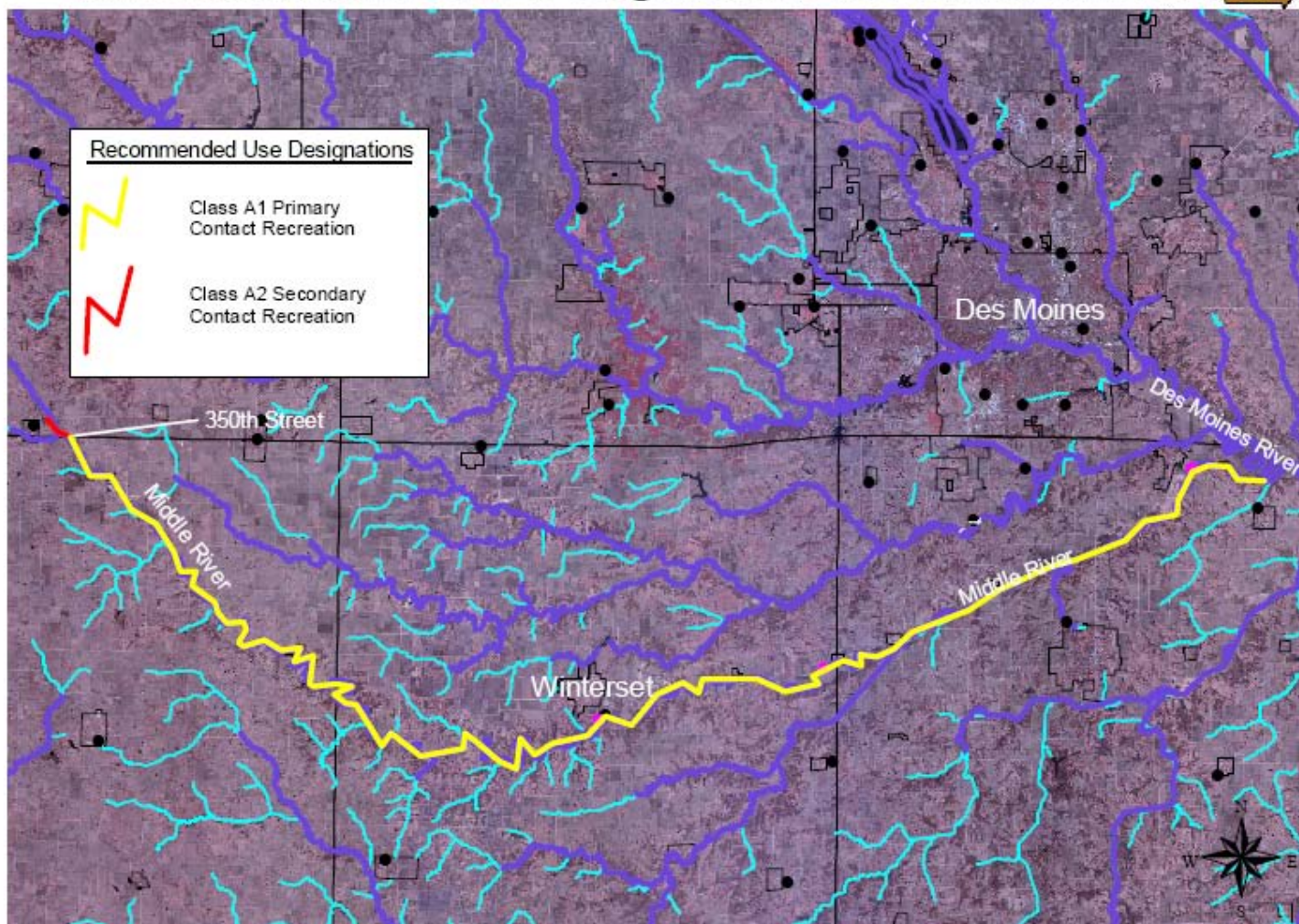
- Class A1, Primary Contact Recreation from the mouth of the Middle River (Warren County) to the 350th Street crossing (N. Line, S1, T77N, R32W, Adair County).*
- Class A2, Secondary Contact Recreation from the 350th Street crossing (N. Line, S1, T77N, R32W, Adair County) to the 340th Street crossing (S. Line, S26, T78N, R32W, Guthrie County).*

* See recommendation map

Public Lands and Comments for Middle River



Recommended Use Designations for Middle River



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Middle Soldier River
Affected Facility: Ricketts (420)
Dates: Field assessment – 8/31/06

Public Comments:

One survey was returned for the Middle Soldier River from a Crawford County Conservation Board employee. The survey stated that there were no known recreational uses taking place in the Middle Soldier River in the assessed reach.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for the Middle Soldier River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The comments received for the Middle Soldier River did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for the Middle Soldier River will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (S36, T84N, R42W, Monona County) to 150th Street (E. line, S35, T85N, R41W, Crawford County). *

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Milford Creek
Affected Facility: Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District (561)
Dates: Field assessment – 8/15/06, 10/17/06

Public Comments:

A citizen sent in an email stating that: swimming, canoeing, fishing, kayaking, and children's play occurs in Milford Creek. The location given for this activity was the proposed Class A3 Children's Recreation portion of the stream. Two interview post-cards were also returned for this portion of Milford Creek.

The department contacted the Dickinson County Conservation Board to acquire information regarding the recreational activities that have occurred in Milford Creek. The Dickinson County Conservation Board employee stated that fishing had been witnessed in Milford Creek throughout the assessed reach.

One comment was received that was not for the assessed reach.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that Milford Creek will be split into two different designations. Children's Recreational Use designation (Class A3) was appropriate for Milford Creek from the mouth (S14, T98N, R37W, Dickinson County) to 220th street (N. line, S7, T98N, R36W, Dickinson County) due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 Primary Contact Recreational Use. The department recommends the Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreational Use apply from 220th Street (N. line, S7, T98N, R36W, Dickinson County) to the outlet at Lower Gar Lake (NW1/4, NW1/4, S5, T98N, R36W, Dickinson County).

People were seen fishing in the stream on the upstream side of site 561-3. A turn-around/informal parking area was located at this site, upstream from the outfall. Evidence of recreational use was observed at all of the upstream sites with the exceptions of sites 561-A and 561-B. The evidence typically consisted of remnant of fishing tackle, cleaned fish carcasses, and footpaths and/or footprints near the stream.

The only comment received outside the Class A3 reach was regarding a proposed subdivision upstream of site 561-2. At the time of assessment the area was agricultural ground with limited opportunities or evidence of children's recreational use. The Class A3 use is applied where children's play is common in an area given an assessment of all relevant factors. The fact that a subdivision is proposed to be built is not felt to be adequate justification to apply a Class A3 use in that area as it does not demonstrate that children's play is currently common. The department is wary to apply the Class A3 use in these situations as there are no guarantees that these proposed developments will actually be built and occupied. With that being said, the department continually reviews

the water quality standards and will watch this situation closely and determine if changes to the current recommendation are warranted in the future.

The comments received for Milford Creek did not provide any additional information about the recommended Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreational Use portion that would result in a change in the recommended designation, because fishing is considered a Class A2 activity. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Milford Creek will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from 220th Street (N. line, S7, T98N, R36W, Dickinson County) to the outlet at Lower Gar Lake (NW1/4, NW1/4, S5, T98N, R36W, Dickinson County). Children's Recreational Use (Class A3) designation was appropriate for Milford Creek from the mouth (S14, T98N, R37W, Dickinson County) to 220th street (N. line, S7, T98N, R36W, Dickinson County). *

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Mill Creek
Affected Facility: City of Paullina (114)
City of Meriden (761)
Dates: Field assessment – 5/31/2006 & 6/1/2006,
Phone interviews - Dec. 07/ Jan. 08

Public Comments:

There were 3 comments received for the assessed segment of Mill Creek from county conservation employees and 5 comments received from the general public for a total of 8 comments.

4 of the 5 comments from the public stated that swimming and child's play occurs at various bridge locations throughout the assessed reaches of Mill Creek. 4 comments state that canoeing/kayaking/tubing occurs in Mill Creek, and 3 comments note fishing or minnow seining as uses of Mill Creek. One comment received from the general public stated that he uses the river. No specific activities, location, or frequency was noted.

There was one comment received from a Cherokee County Conservation employee. The survey stated that swimming and children's play occur several times a year. Canoeing, kayaking, and tubing was noted to occur on a regular basis when water levels are normal. The survey noted that the river is not floatable during long dry periods, but is still popular for wading and swimming. Fishing was noted to occur at various bridges and private pastures. Summer and fall were noted at the busiest seasons for fishing.

Two comments were received from O'Brien County Conservation employees. The first survey pertained to Mill Creek within the Railroad Area. The survey stated that fishing, seining, and minnow trapping occur in Mill Creek. No frequency was given, and no other recreational uses were noted. The second survey pertained to Mill Creek within Mill Creek State Park. The survey stated that wading occurs in the summer months. Children's play was noted as a frequent activity in the summer. Fishing, seining, and minnow trapping were all noted to occur in Mill Creek. No other recreational uses were noted.

Analysis:

The initial department recommendation concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for Mill Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence and information to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3). (see previous recommendation map).

The depth criteria guidelines used by the department to help determine if Primary Contact Recreational use (Class A1) is attainable typically will exclude streams that are not able

to support a Class A1 use due to the overall lack of flow needed to support activities that result in direct and prolonged contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting appreciable quantities of water sufficient to pose a health hazard. While these guidelines are effective in most situations, there are cases where a stream demonstrates that it can support the Class A1 use despite the lack of flow that typically distinguishes a stream that can support Primary Contact Recreational uses.

The comments from the general public and local officials have indicated that multiple recreational uses such as canoeing, fishing, children's play, and swimming occur within Mill Creek. The department did find evidence of recreational use on Mill Creek during the field assessment in 2006. At site (114-1), kids were observed playing in the creek. The kids play consisted of swimming and wading in the creek. There was also evidence of recreational uses found at other sites. The evidence of recreational uses consisted of vehicle tracks near the creek, footprints, foot paths leading to the creek, and mud graffiti under bridges. The surveys received describe the occurrence of activities consistent with all three of Iowa's recreational use designations and the evidence found during the field assessment.

The comments received from the Cherokee County Conservation Board stated that canoeing, kayaking, and tubing are a common occurrence in Mill Creek. These comments focused on Mill Creek between the C-16 Bridge (450th Street Bridge) near the confluence with Bear Creek and the mouth of Mill Creek at the confluence with the Little Sioux River.

The comments from the O'Brien County Conservation Board noted numerous recreational activities taking place in Mill Creek within the Mill Creek State Park. Recreational uses within Mill Creek State Park located near the City of Paullina consisted of frequent children's play and fishing.

Portions of Mill Creek that did not contain depths adequate to support Class A1 uses and did not receive surveys noting specific locations or frequencies will remain Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreation.

*See recommendation map

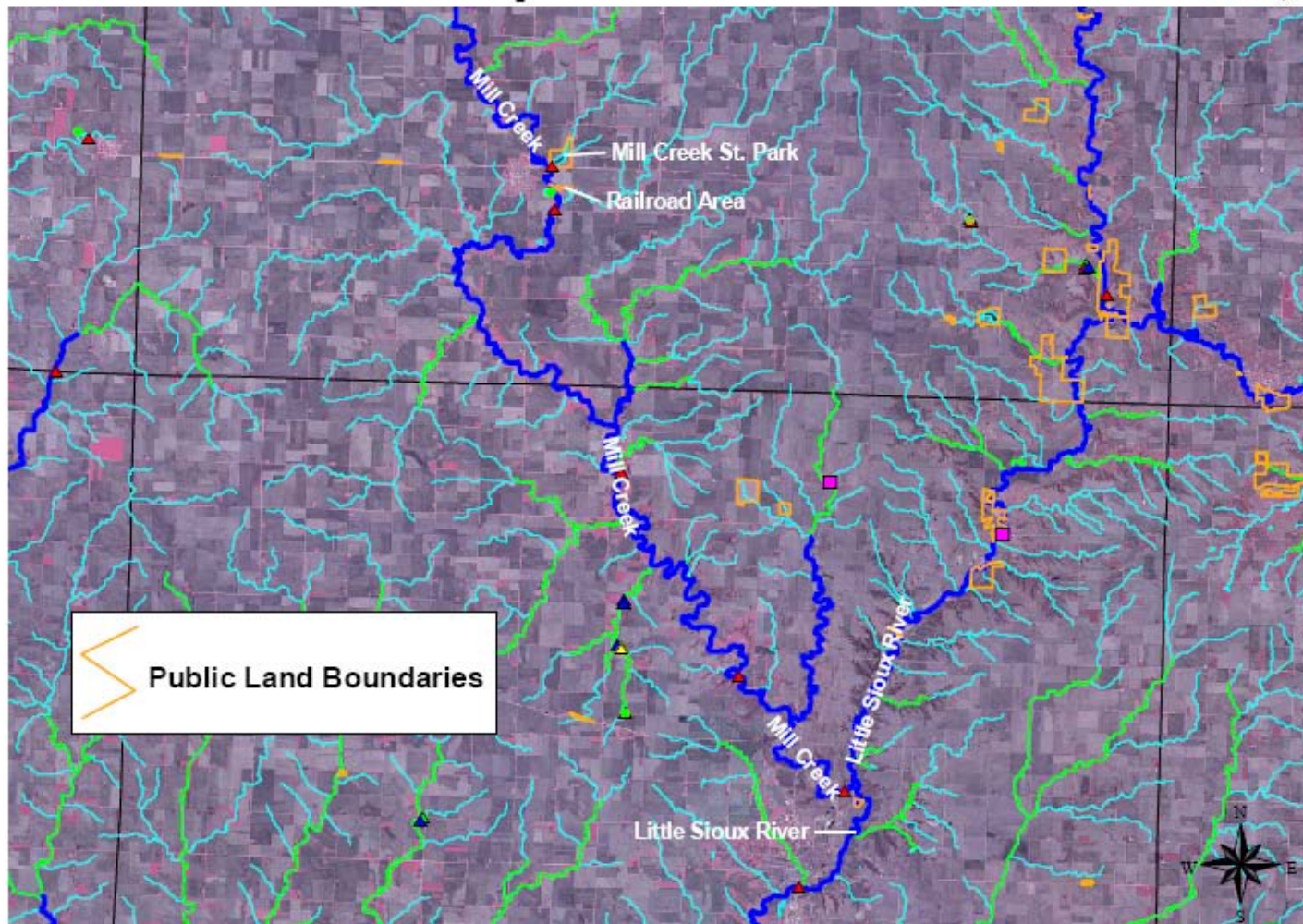
Due to recent information the Department is modifying the original recommendations as detailed below.

- Class A1, Primary Contact Recreation from the mouth of Mill Creek (S14, T92N, R40W, Cherokee County) to the confluence with Bear Creek (S13, T93N, R41W, Cherokee County).*
- Class A2, Secondary Contact Recreation from the confluence with Bear Creek (S13, T93N, R41W, Cherokee County) to (S. Line, S3, T94N, R41W, O'Brien County).*
- Class A3, Children's Recreation from (S. Line, S3, T94N, R41W, O'Brien County) to (N. Line of the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of S3, T94N, R41W, O'Brien County).*

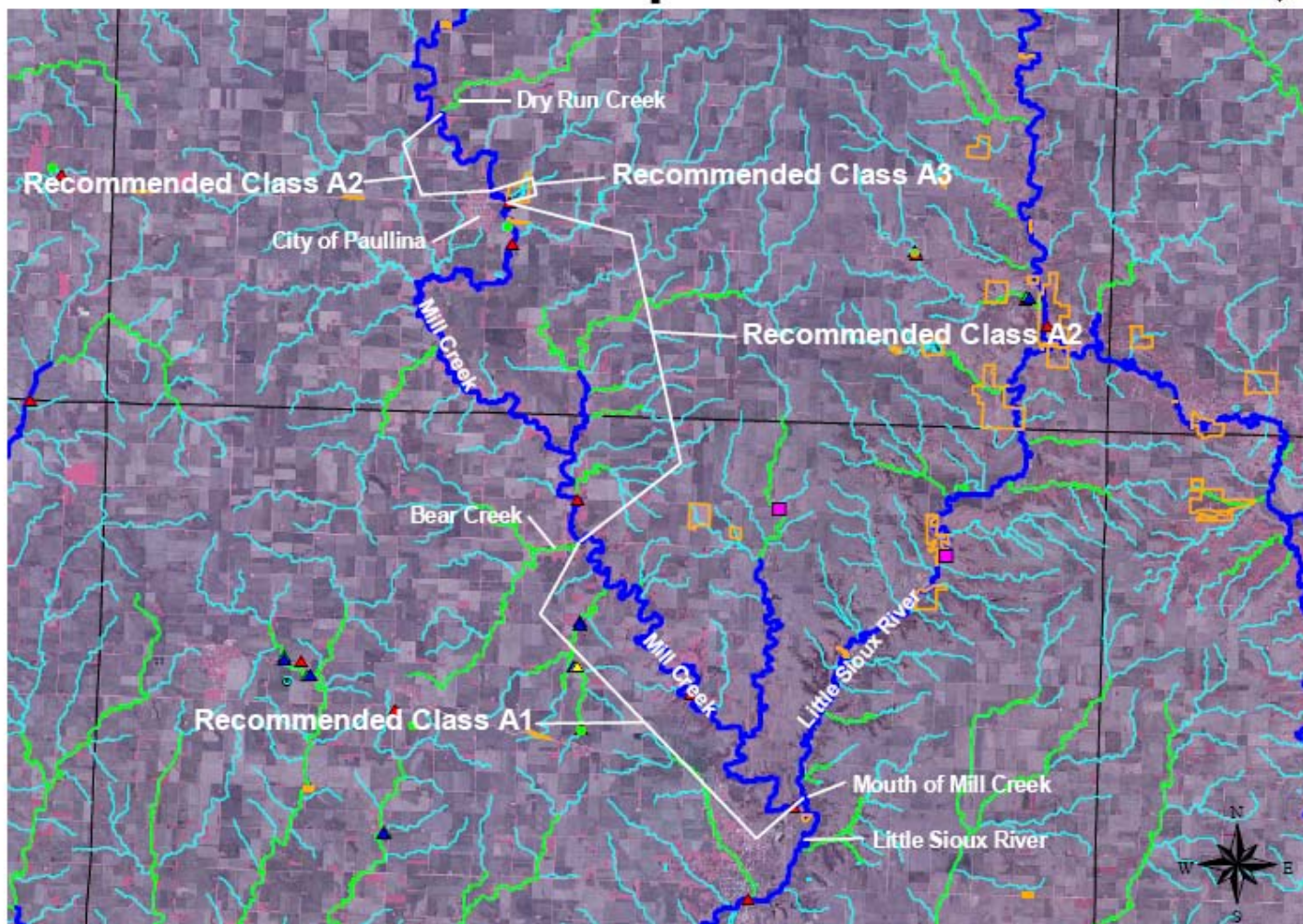
- Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreation from (N. Line of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of S3, T94N, R41W, O'Brien County) to the confluence with Dry Run Creek (S29, T95N, R41W, O'Brien County).*

* See recommendation map

Public Lands Map for Mill Creek



Recommendation Map for Mill Creek



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Moon Creek
Affected Facility: Montezuma (502)
Dates: Field assessment - 9/21/06

Public Comments:

Two surveys were returned for Moon Creek. One survey from the Mahaska County Conservation Board stated that there were no known recreational uses taking place in Moon Creek within the assessed reach.

The other survey from the Poweshiek County Conservation Board stated that there were no known recreational uses taking place in Moon Creek within the assessed reach.

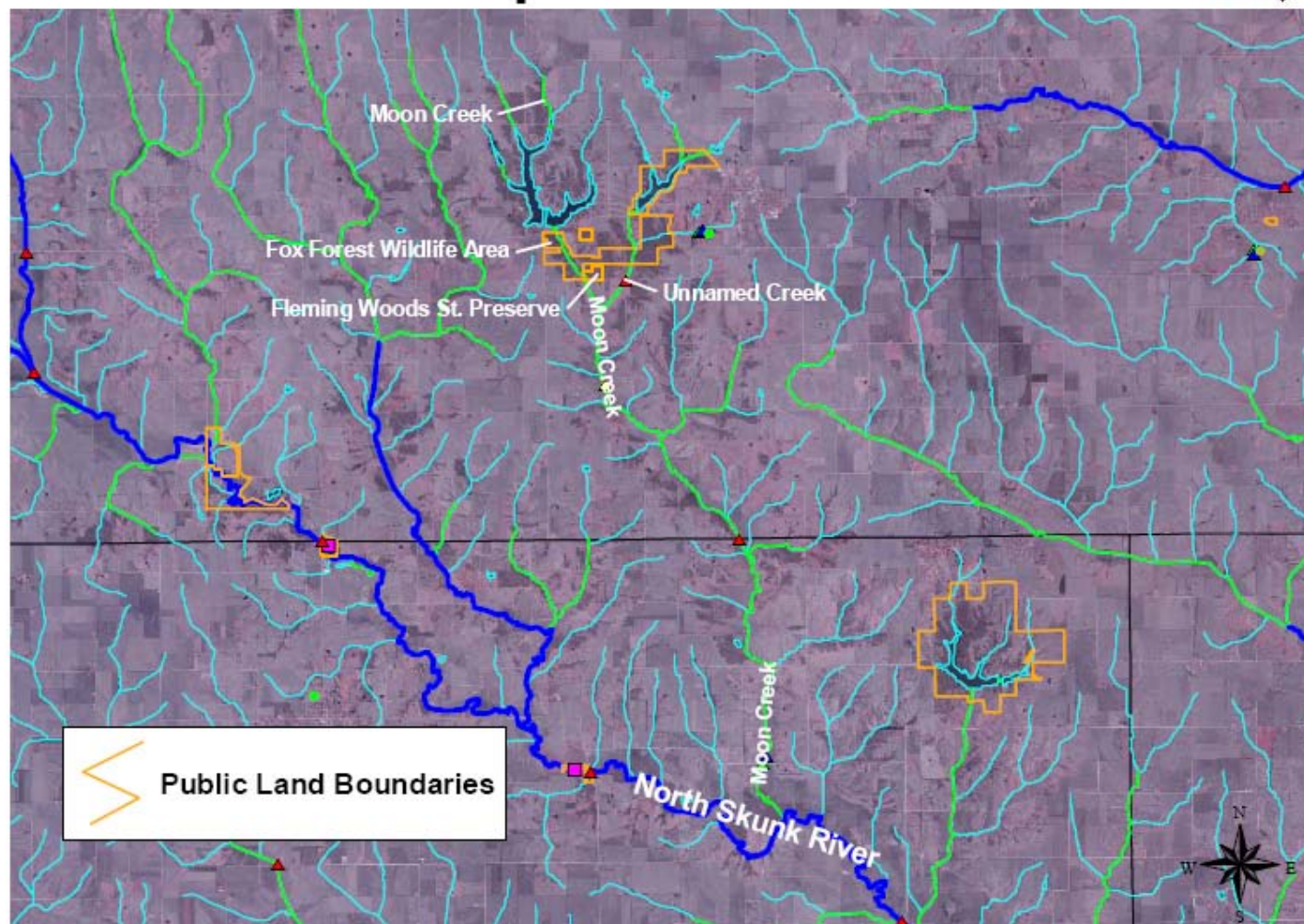
Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for Moon Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The comments received for Moon Creek did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Moon Creek will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (S30, T77N, R14W, Mahaska County) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (S15, T78N, R15W, Poweshiek County).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Lands Map for Moon Creek



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Muchakinock Creek
Affected Facility: Beacon (108)
Dates: Field assessment – 3/30/06 and 10/26/07

Public Comments:

One survey was returned for Muchakinock Creek from a Mahaska County Conservation Board employee and a follow-up phone interview was conducted. The survey/interview stated that the employee has observed people seining for minnows and fishing regularly. They also stated that children recreate in the stream near the small towns but these activities were not frequent. There may be more frequent use near the unincorporated community of Givin, but it was not known. It was stated that the Muchakinock Creek is too shallow for swimming, canoeing/kayaking/tubing.

An online survey was submitted by the general public stating that swimming and wading have occurred by children in the past at the T39 (Kilbourn Street) Bridge. Also the person has used Muchakinock Creek for tubing and fishing.

An online survey was submitted by the general public stating that during Iowater sampling no recreational activities have been observed at several locations along Muchakinock Creek.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Children's Recreational Use (Class A3) designation was appropriate for Muchakinock Creek from Kilbourn Street to Hwy 92 due to the close proximity to the City of Beacon and the evidence of recreational uses found in the area. A Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was also appropriate for Muchakinock Creek from the mouth to Kilbourn Street and from Hwy 92 to the confluence with Unnamed Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

During the 2006 field assessment a pool with a maximum depth of greater than four feet was found at site 108-2 near the unincorporated community of Givin. In the 2007 field season this site was revisited to investigate the size and depth of the pool (the flow of the stream was noted to be greater than that of the 2006 assessment). The pool was sampled to be approximately 60 feet long and 15-18 feet wide at its widest point at the elevated flow conditions and is expected to be even smaller at base flow conditions. The stream banks were noted to have a large amount of rip-rap that contained rebar that created hazardous conditions (see pictures). The department feels this small, isolated pool does not warrant primary contact recreational use protection due to the small size of the pool and associated hazardous conditions.



The comments received from the Mahaska County Conservation Board supported the original recommendation of Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreational Use designation for Muchakinock Creek (excluding the area near Beacon).

The comments received for the stream segment that flows near the City of Beacon confirms the findings in the field and supports the original recommendation of Class A3 Children's Recreational Use designation in that area.

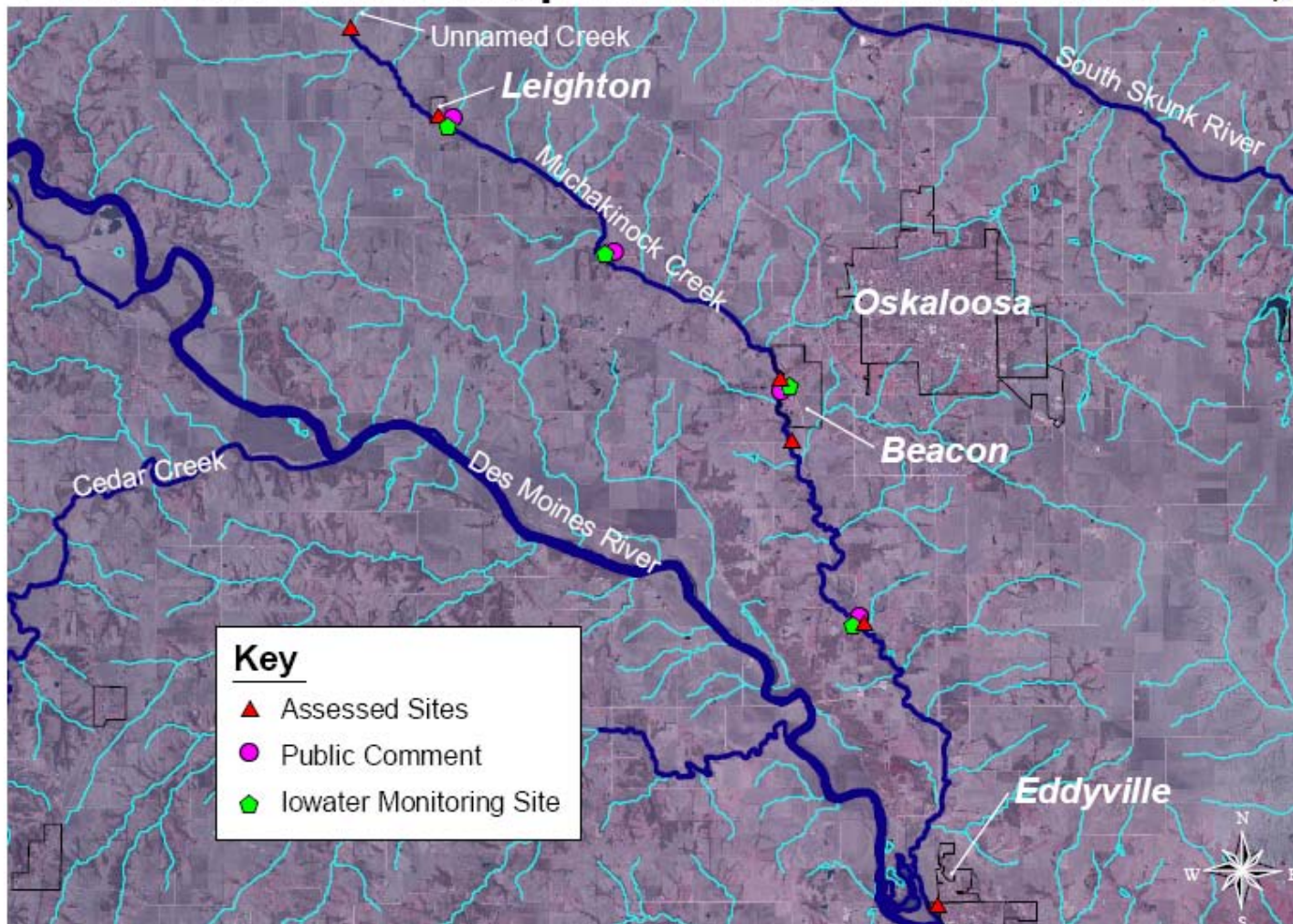
There are four IOWATER monitoring sites along Muchakinock Creek. Comments received stated that there were no recreational uses observed, or known to take place, at any of the four monitoring locations (see comment map for location of IOWATER monitoring sites).

One of these locations is located at site 108-2 near the unincorporated community of Givin. The Mahaska County Conservation Board employee stated that this area may have a higher frequency of children's recreating in the stream. The comments from IOWATER stated that there were no known uses of the stream at this location. Although some evidence of children's recreational use, such as mud balls and graffiti, was found during the field assessment it is unlikely that children are recreating in the stream at an elevated frequency. The comments received support that the frequency of use is not sufficient to warrant a Class A3 Children's Recreational Use designation (excluding the area near Beacon).

The comments received for Muchakinock Creek did not provide any additional information that will result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Muchakinock Creek will remain as Children's Recreation Use (Class A3) from Kilbourn Street (SW ¼, NE ¼, S27, T75N, R16W, Mahaska Co.) to Hwy 92 (SW ¼, NW ¼, S22, T75N, R16W, Mahaska Co.) and Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (E. Line, S1, T73N, R16W, Monroe Co.) to Kilbourn Street (SW ¼, NE ¼, S27, T75N, R16W, Mahaska Co.) and from Hwy 92 (SW ¼, NW ¼, S22, T75N, R16W, Mahaska Co.) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (NW ¼, SW ¼, S27, T76N, R17W, Mahaska Co.).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comments Map for Muchakinock Creek



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Mud Creek
Affected Facility: City of Eldridge – Buttermilk (505)
City of Donahue (804)
Speedway SuperAmerica (195)
Dates: Field assessment - 5/2/06 & 5/3/06

Public Comments:

Two surveys were returned for Mud Creek from Scott County Conservation Board employees. The surveys stated swimming and children's play occur on an occasional basis near the mouth within Allen's Grove Park. Canoeing was noted to occur when water levels are high enough. Fishing was noted to occur on a regular basis within Allen's Grove Park, although there was no specific mention as to whether the activity occurs on Mud Creek or the Wapsipinicon River.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for Mud Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The comments received for Mud Creek were dependent on water level. The swimming and children's play comments stated that the creek is usually not deep enough for these activities. The comments received for canoeing, kayaking, or tubing also noted that this activity is dependent upon higher than normal flow conditions. Fishing was noted to occur when the Wapsipinicon River backs up into Mud Creek.

There was evidence of recreational uses found during the field assessment of Mud Creek. At site (195-3), old ATV tracks were found on the creek bank. The tracks lead into the creek. At site (505-2), an interview with a local landowner was conducted. The landowner said that his boys use the creek for fishing, catching turtles, and swimming. At site (505-1) at Allen's Grove Park, a fishing pole and old fire pit were found. Also there was a stream side road found.

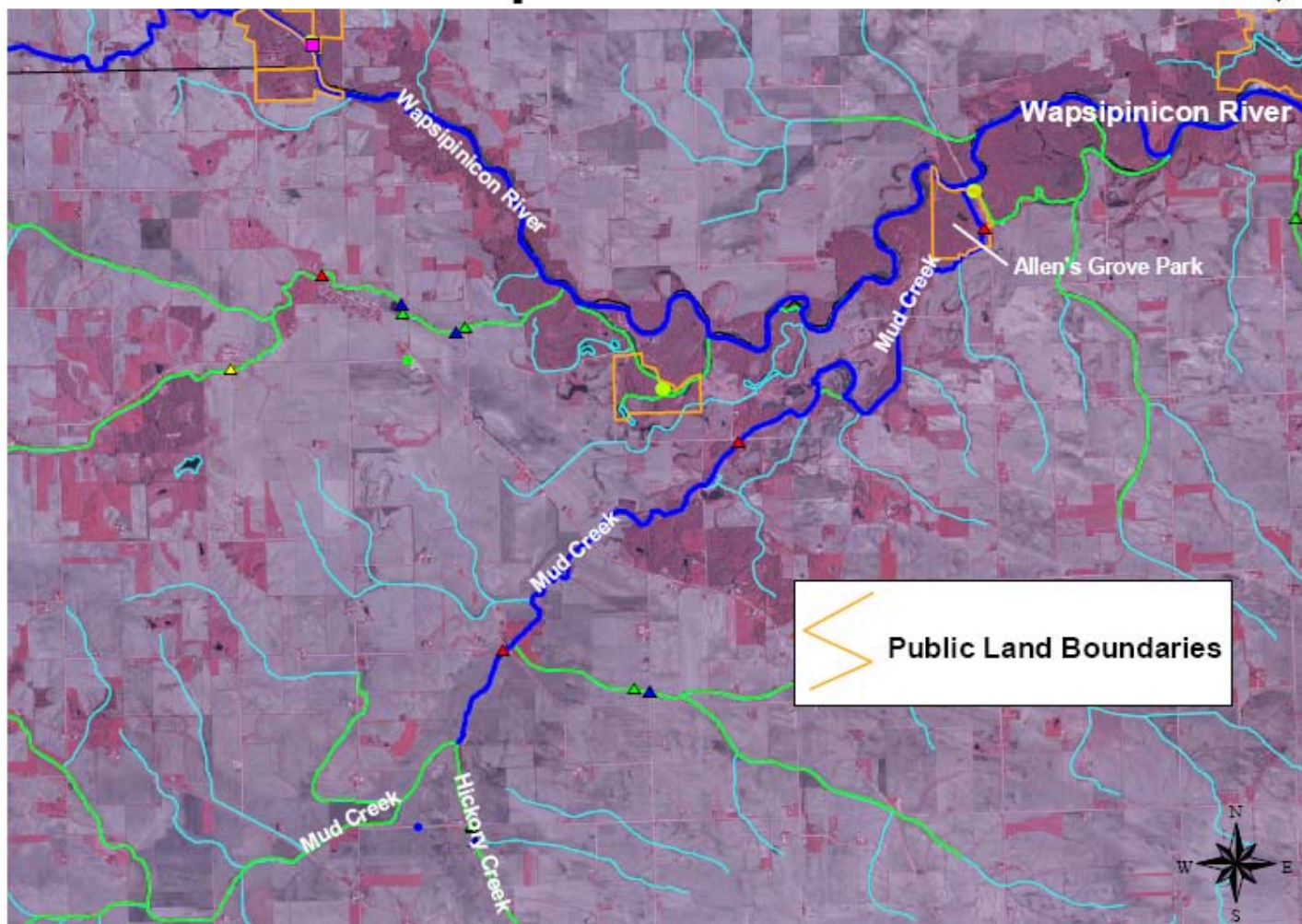
During the time of the assessments, the creek appeared to be between 8 and 12 inches above normal base flow conditions. Estimations were made in the field at the time of assessment which help determine how elevated a stream may be. Although the flow conditions are elevated due to rains which had occurred the week prior to the assessment, the department concluded that the river would not be able to maintain depths adequate for primary contact recreation throughout the recreational season. The county conservation board comments help to verify this conclusion.



Due to the comments received for Mud Creek being dependant upon elevated flows, the evidence found during the field assessment, and the elevated flows found during the field assessment; the provided information and comments do not result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Mud Creek will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (NW ¼, S12, T80N, R2E, Scott County) to the confluence with Hickory Creek (SE ¼ of S31, T80N, R2E, Scott County).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Lands Map for Mud Creek



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Mud Creek
Affected Facility: Vinton (24)
Dates: Field assessment – 6/20/06

Public Comments:

One survey was returned for Mud Creek from a Benton County Conservation Board employee. The survey stated that swimming, child's play, fishing, and minnow trapping occur in Mud Creek when flows are high.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for Mud Creek due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The comment from the Benton County Conservation Board employee stated that swimming, child's play, fishing, and minnow trapping occur in Mud Creek; however, only when flows are high. Creek designations are applied based on the creeks ability to support recreational uses during base flow periods. Therefore, Mud Creek, at base flow, would not be able to sustain such uses, nor can it be assumed that periods of high flow are sustainable in the assessed reach of Mud Creek.

The activities of swimming and child's play are controversial in the sense that they could be considered consistent with either: Class A1 or Class A3 type uses. Review of the current UAA recommendation and associated data collected in the field demonstrates that Mud Creek is shallow throughout the assessed reach and no evidence of recreational uses were found that would suggest swimming or child's play occurs commonly.

The comments received for Mud Creek did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Mud Creek will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (Benton County) to the bridge crossing on United States Highway 218 (W. line, S33, T85N, R10W, Benton County).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Mud Creek
Affected Facility: Walcott (South) (486)
Walcott (North) (487)
Pilot Travel Center Store #268 (376)
Durant (150)
North Star Steel Iowa (63)
Wilton (28)

Dates: Field assessment – 9/13/05, 9/14/06, Phone Interviews – Dec.07/Jan. 08

Public Comments:

Five comments were received in total for Mud Creek. Two comments were from County Conservation Employees (Cedar and Muscatine County). These two comments stated that fishing occurred on Mud Creek. The other three comments were from email or online surveys that local citizens sent in. One comment stated fishing, one stated that they've heard children's play but would not consider it a common use, and one stated no recreation occurred on Mud Creek.

Mud Creek has 11 Iowater sample sites. Recreational activities reported on Mud Creek at these sites were: one comment stating swimming, two comments stating children's play, and two comments stating fishing.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded that Mud Creek will be designated Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (SE1/4, S10, T78N, R2W, Muscatine County) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (NE1/4, NE1/4, S6, T78N, R2E, Scott County) due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation Use (Class A3).

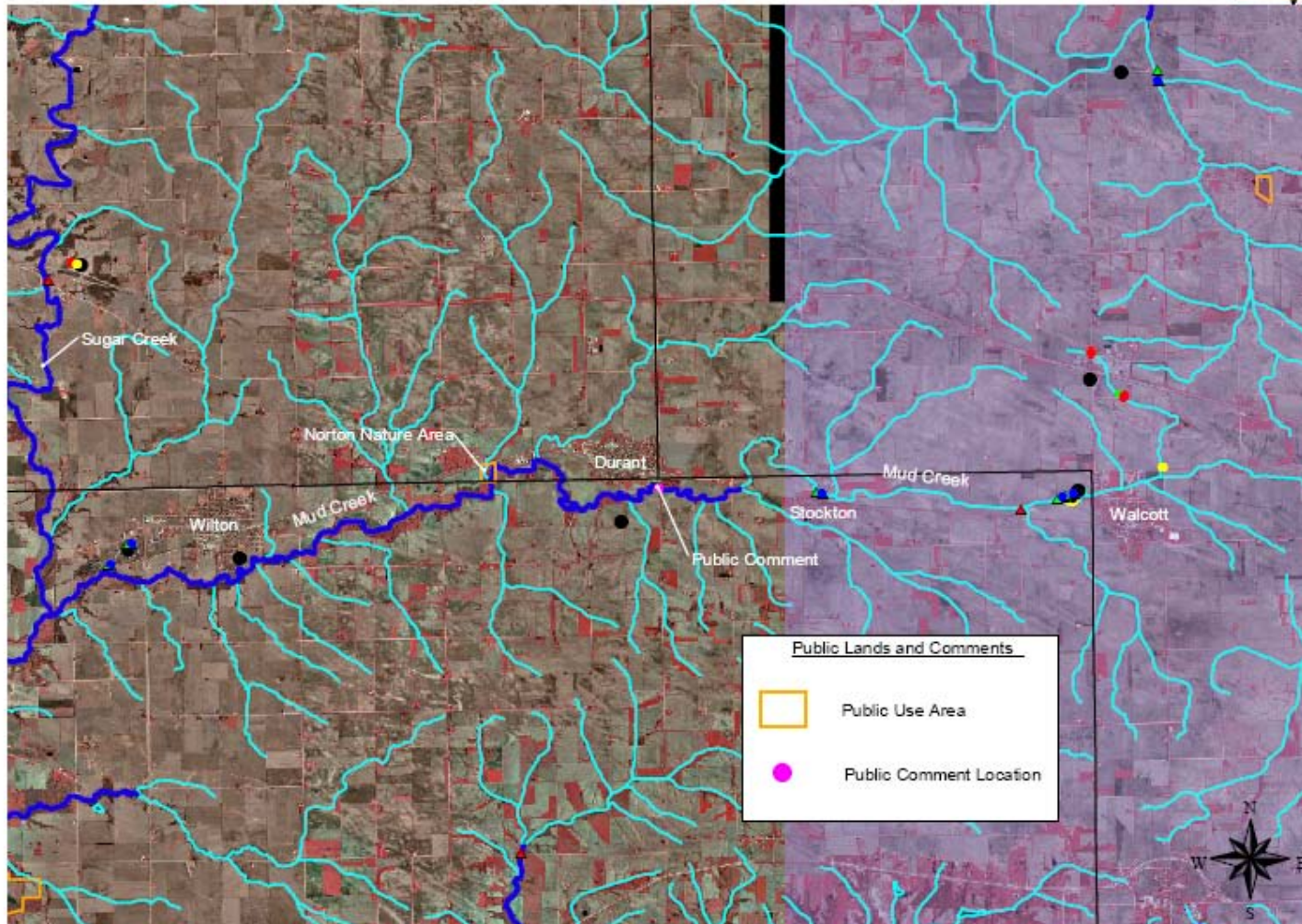
Comments were received that stated children play in Mud Creek. The comments did not state how often children's play occurred in the creek. Review of the current UAA recommendation and associated data collected in the field for Mud Creek did not suggest these activities were occurring at elevated frequencies or even at all and the majority of Mud Creek is not located near populous areas that would suggest this activity occurs commonly.

For each Iowater site there were several sample dates, meaning that each site was visited multiple times. While one sample was given that stated children's play was encountered, other samples at a different date did not state children's play was encountered. The contradiction in the assessment suggest children's play is not occurring frequently at these sites.

The comments received for Mud Creek did not provide any additional information about the recommended Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreational Use portion that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for Mud Creek will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (SE1/4, S10, T78N, R2W, Muscatine County) to the confluence with Unnamed Creek (NE1/4, NE1/4, S6, T78N, R2E, Scott County).

*See recommendation map for details

Public Lands and Comments- Mud Creek



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: Nodaway River
Affected Facility: Clarinda (67)
DNR Viking Lake State Park (257)
Villisca (111)

Dates: Field assessment – 3/16/06, Phone interviews - Dec. 07/ Jan. 08

Public Comments:

There was 1 comment received for the assessed segment of the Nodaway River from county conservation employees and 2 comments received from the general public for a total of 3 comments.

1 of the 2 comments from the public stated that swimming, children's play, canoeing, and fishing occurs at the Washington Street bridge near Clarinda in the Nodaway River. The other comment stated that no recreational uses occur on the Nodaway River.

There was one comment from a Page County Conservation employee that fishing and children's play were observed in the Nodaway River within Page County. Children playing in the Nodaway River were assumed to be family members of people fishing.

Analysis:

The initial department recommendation concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for the Nodaway River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence and information to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3). (see previous recommendation map).

The comments from the general public and local official have indicated that multiple recreational uses occur within the Nodaway River near the Washington Street bridge. During the field assessment in 2006 evidence of recreational use were observed at all assessed sites. The evidence typically consisted of ATV tracks. At site 67-2 (Washington Street), footprints, fishing tackle, and fire remnants were found.

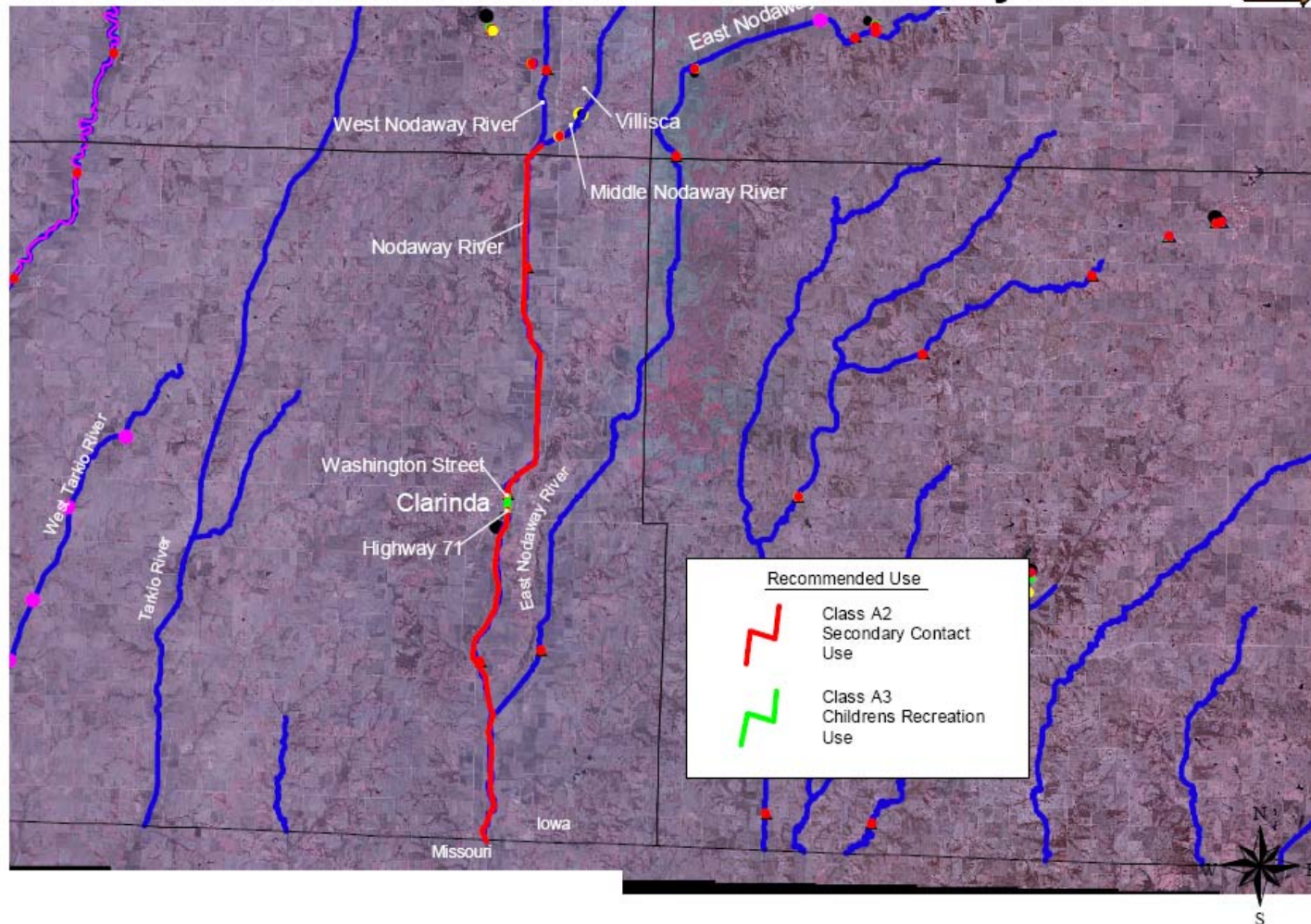
The public comments of swimming, children's play, canoeing, and fishing at the Washington Street bridge near Clarinda was further supplemented by the Page County Conservation comment stating that children's play and fishing occur in the Nodaway River at this site. Even though the previous assessment found Class A2 uses, the comments received indicated Class A3 Children's Contact Recreational Uses, and thus the designation will be changed.

Due to recent information the Department is modifying the original recommendations as detailed below.

- Class A2, Secondary Contact Recreation from the Iowa-Missouri state line (S. line, S31, T67N, R36W, Page County) to Highway 71 (SW ¼ S32, T69N, R36W, Page County).
- Class A3, Children's Contact Recreation from Highway 71 (SW ¼ S32, T69N, R36W, Page County) to Washington Street (NE 1/4 S32, T69N, R36W, Page County).
- Class A2, Secondary Contact Recreation from Washington Street (NE 1/4 S32, T69N, R36W, Page County) to the confluence with Middle Nodaway River and West Nodaway River (S33, T71N, R36W, Montgomery County). *

* See recommendation map

Recommended Recreational Use - Nodaway River



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: North English River
Affected Facility: East Iowa Bible Camp (172), Iowa DOT Malcom (600)
Dates: Field assessment – 11/15/06

Public Comments:

Two surveys were returned for the North English River from Poweshiek County Conservation Board employees and one survey from the general public. Each of the surveys stated that there were no known child's play or swimming activities taking place on the North English River, however there were comments relating to the use of canoes, kayaks, and occasional fishing trips within the assessed reaches.

One of the surveys completed by a County Conservation Board employee stated that there was known recreational activities occurring at Cecil Rivers Timber park. The park is located on a section of the river that the department has not yet been assessed and therefore is presumed to be a Class A1 Primary Contact Recreational Use segment.

Analysis:

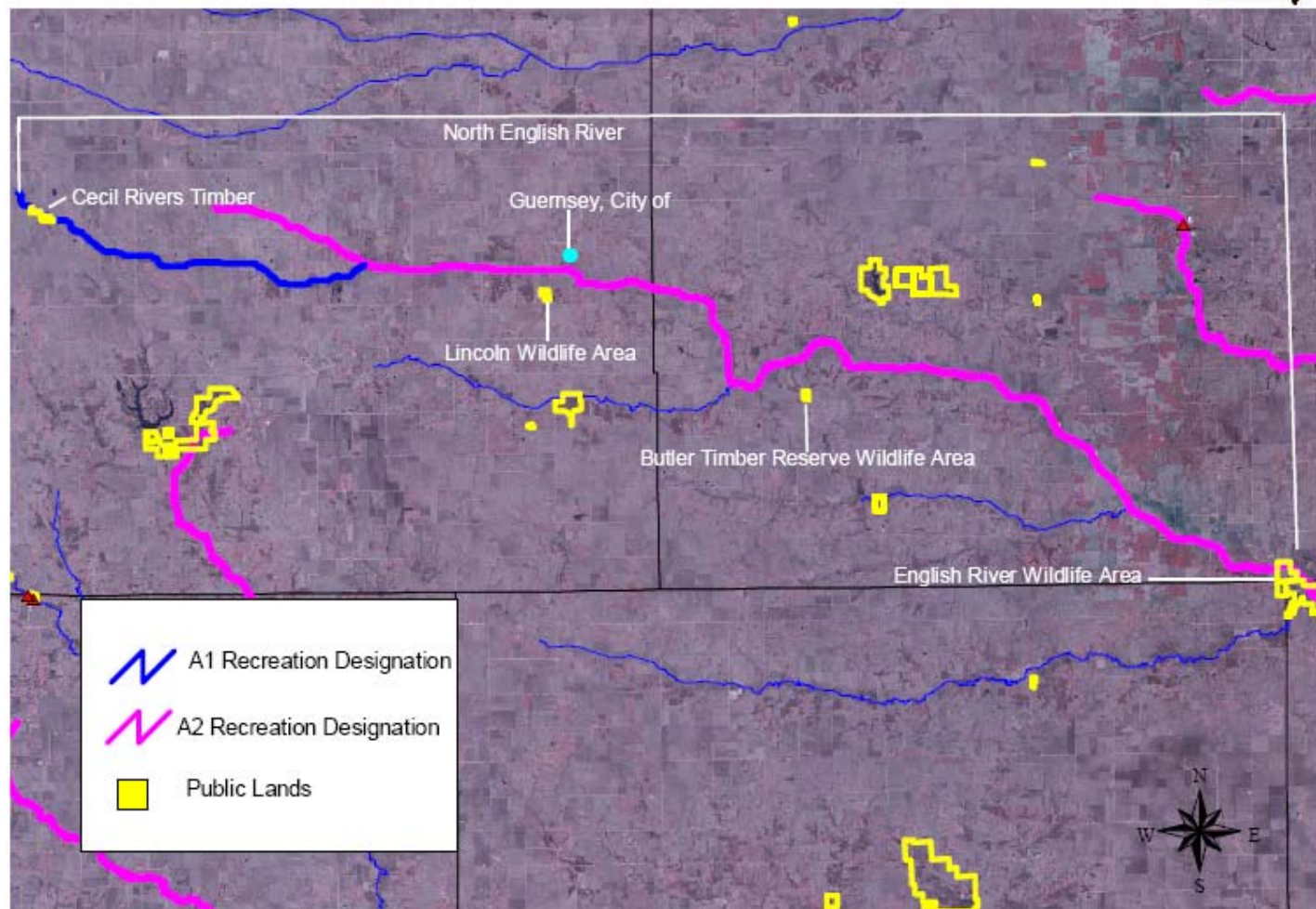
The previous assessment concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for North English River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 Primary Contact Recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation Class A3.

English River Wildlife Area and Washington County Conservation areas are both located near the mouth of the North English River. One of the surveys stated that there was a three to four week period in the spring and fall when the water levels were elevated enough to allow for canoeing or kayaking. A recreational survey site (600-A) was completed by the department near these areas in the fall of 2006. The field data indicated that the streams average depth at the time of the survey was 4-5 inches. The department also referenced information from Iowa's guide to canoe routes to help determine the appropriate recreational use designation concerning possible canoe uses at those locations. The sites located within the English River Wildlife, and Washington County Conservation areas were not listed as a part of these canoe routes.

The comments received for North English River did not provide any additional information that would result in a change in the recommended designation. Therefore, the department's original use designation recommendation for North English River will remain as Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) from the mouth (S6, T77N, R17W, Washington Co.) to the confluence with Dugout River (S15, T79N, R14W, Poweshiek Co.).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Lands and Comments Map - North English River



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: North Fork Maquoketa River
Affected Facility: City of New Vienna (701)
City of Dyersville (214)
City of Worthington (29)
City of Zwingle (628)
City of Cascade (462)
Iowa DOT Maintenance Garage – Dyersville (610)
Dates: Field assessment – 6/14/06, 6/15/06, 6/26/06, 10/25/06
Phone interviews - Dec. 07/ Jan. 08

Public Comments:

There were 108 surveys received for the North Fork Maquoketa River from county conservation employees and the general public.

Of the 108 received surveys, 74 were submitted by the general public and were specific to the North Fork Maquoketa River in Jackson County. The surveys noted a variety of bridge locations within Jackson County where recreational uses were noted to occur. More than half of the 74 surveys submitted by the general public noted that they have witnessed or participated in swimming, children's play, canoeing/kayaking, tubing, and fishing. The other surveys noted to witness or participate in at least one or more of the previously mentioned uses.

Of the 108 received surveys, 4 were submitted by the general public and were specific to the North Fork Maquoketa River in Jones County. 3 of the 4 surveys noted swimming, children's play, canoeing/kayaking, tubing, and fishing to occur on a regular basis in Jones County. The other survey noted all the previously mentioned uses except tubing.

Of the 108 received surveys, 13 were submitted by the general public and were not county specific. The surveys noted Jackson County, Jones County, and Dubuque County as areas of use. 7 of the 13 surveys submitted by the general public noted that they have witnessed or participated in swimming, children's play, canoeing/kayaking, tubing, and fishing. The other 6 surveys noted to witness or participate in at least one or more of the previously mentioned uses.

One survey submitted by a private citizen pertained to recreational uses in the North Fork Maquoketa River within Dubuque County. The survey noted swimming, children's play, canoeing, and fishing to occur on a weekly to daily basis.

12 additional letters were submitted by the general public. The letters noted multiple recreational uses occurring in the North Fork Maquoketa River. No specific locations or frequency was given for these events.

Two surveys were submitted by the Jackson County Conservation Board. The first survey pertained to the North Fork Maquoketa River in Jackson County. The survey noted that the county maintains canoe access points at sites (682-1 & 682-2). Canoeing and tubing were noted to have been observed on numerous occasions. The survey also noted fishing as a regular activity. The second survey pertained to the North Fork Maquoketa River within the Ozark Wildlife Area. The survey noted canoeing and tubing to occur in the warm months. Fishing and fur trapping was noted to occur along bridges. Wading was mentioned as a possible activity but has not been observed. No frequency for these events was given. No other recreational uses were noted.

One letter was submitted by the Jones County Conservation Board. The letter noted that people from around the state and other states use the North Fork Maquoketa River for canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. The letter also notes that the City of Cascade has a park adjacent to the river that attracts children that play in the river.

One survey submitted by the DNR pertained to the North Fork Maquoketa River within the Searryl's Cave State Preserve. The survey noted swimming, children's play, canoeing, and fishing to all occur within the preserve. Fishing was noted as a very popular activity. No specific frequency was given for these events.

Analysis:

Segment 1 – Mouth of the North Fork Maquoketa River to State Highway 136

The initial department recommendation concluded that a Secondary Contact Recreational Use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for the North Fork Maquoketa River from the mouth to Marcy White Drive due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence and information to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3). (see previous recommendation map).

The depth criteria guidelines used by the department to help determine if Primary Contact Recreational use (Class A1) is attainable typically will exclude streams that are not able to support a Class A1 use due to the overall lack of flow needed to support activities that result in direct and prolonged contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting appreciable quantities of water sufficient to pose a health hazard. While these guidelines are effective in most situations, there are cases where a stream demonstrates that it can support the Class A1 use despite the lack of flow that typically distinguishes a stream that can support Primary Contact Recreational uses.

The comments from the general public and local officials have indicated that multiple recreational uses occur throughout the North Fork Maquoketa River. While a majority of the comments pertained to the river in Jackson County, comments noting uses in Jones County and Dubuque County were also received. Swimming, children's play, canoeing, and fishing were noted to occur in all three counties.

During the field assessment of the North Fork Maquoketa River no people were observed recreating in the water at the time of the assessment. Evidence of recreational use was observed at almost every site. The evidence typically consisted of remnant of fishing tackle, graffiti under the bridge (mud, paint, or spray paint), ATV tracks, fire-pits, and footpaths and/or footprints near the stream.

Additional evidence of recreation was observed. Sites 682-1 and 29-2 had an informal canoe/small craft access area. These sites contained high potential of people launching canoes or small crafts from the banks. Site 682-4 was located within the Ozark Wildlife Area which contains a boat ramp (carry-down). Stairs that accessed the stream banks were present at sites 682-1, 682-4, 29-1, and 29-4.

One interview was conducted at site 29-3 where the streamside landowner stated their children have floated down the river in a flat-bottom boat. Another interview was conducted at site 29-4. The local landowner explained that they commonly see people canoeing but the interviewee would not allow their kids to enter the water. An interview was also conducted at site 701-1 where the local resident indicated fishing had occurred at the bridge within the past 2 days but no kids were ever seen playing in the water.

Two local Cascade residents explained in the online stream survey that children were seen playing in and around the river at Highway 151 which was the bridge-crossing assessed at site 29-1.

An emphasis on canoeing was mentioned in most of the received comments and was noted to occur on a regular basis. The North Fork Maquoketa River is listed at a designated canoe route from the mouth through the Ozark Wildlife Area according to the Iowa Stream Fishing & Canoe Guide. Other canoe routes noted in the public comments include Cascade to the mouth at the confluence with the Maquoketa River.

While not all of the assessed sites in the North Fork Maquoketa River met the depth guidelines in full, the fact that these sites within the assessed reach noted frequent canoeing and swimming serves to support a change to the proposed Class A2 segment. The department feels that because of the types and frequency of uses associated with this segment (canoeing/kayaking, tubing, fishing, children's play, and swimming) and the fact that the depths nearly met guidelines in most sites, it can be concluded that the Class A1 Primary Contact Recreational Designation is attainable for this segment.

Segment 2 – State Highway 136 to Marcy White Drive

No specific comments were received for this segment. While several comments noted Dubuque County as a place of recreation, the comments also noted the City of Cascade as a specific location of use. During the field assessment of this segment, the river appeared to be elevated approximately 5-10 inches due to recent rain fall events. When the river is at base flow conditions, this river segment would not be able to support Class A1 Primary Contact Recreation uses. The department feels that because of the lack of observed or noted uses associated with this segment (canoeing, fishing, trapping and swimming) and

the fact that the depths did not meet guidelines, it can be concluded that the Class A1 Primary Contact Recreational Designation is not attainable for this segment.

Segment 3 – Marcy White Drive to State Highway 136

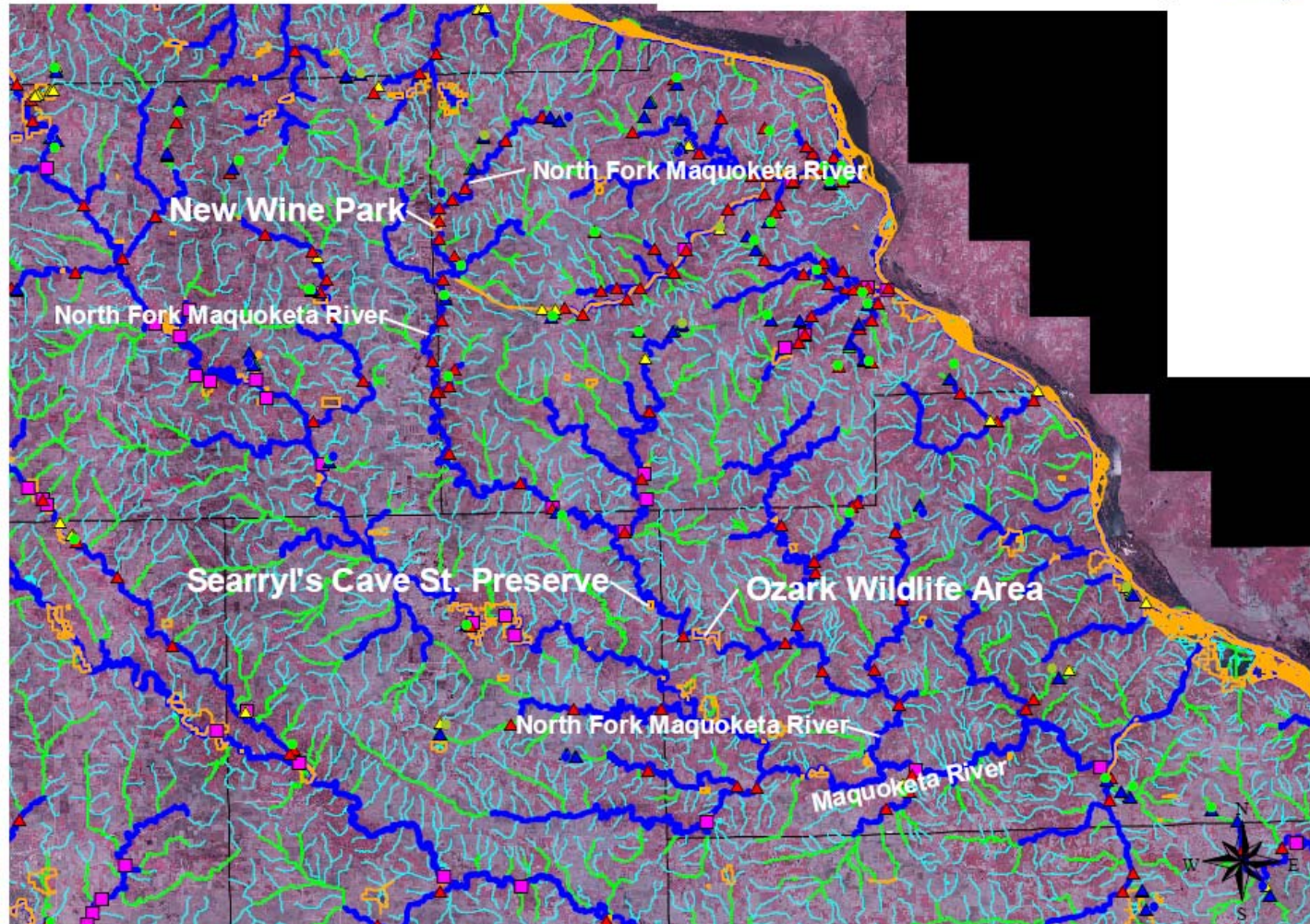
This segment will remain Class A3 as previously proposed.

Due to recent information the Department is modifying the original recommendations as detailed below.

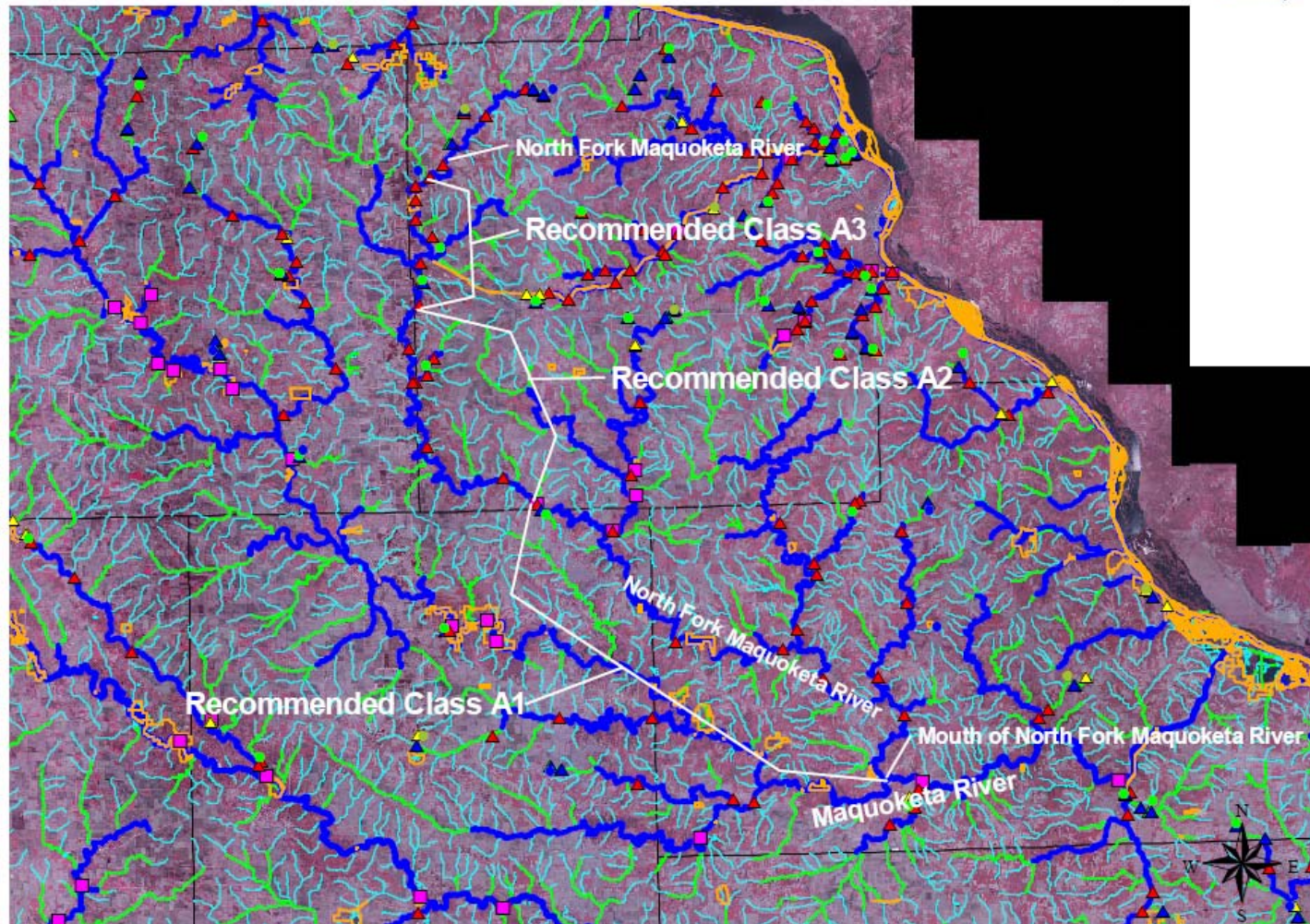
- Class A1, Primary Contact Recreation from the mouth of the North Fork Maquoketa River (S13, T84N, R02E, Jackson County) to State Highway 136 (S26, T87N, R2W, Dubuque County).*
- Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreation from State Highway 136 (S26, T87N, R2W, Dubuque County) to Marcy White Drive (S7, T88N, R02W, Dubuque County).*
- Class A3, Children's Recreation from Marcy White Drive (S7, T88N, R02W, Dubuque County) to State Highway 136 (S6, T89N, R02W, Dubuque County).*

* See recommendation map

North Fork Maquoketa River Public Lands Map



North Fork Maquoketa River Recommendation Map



Public Comment Analysis

Stream: North Raccoon River
Affected Facility: City of Albert City (409)
City of Marathon (17)
City of Storm Lake (406)
City of Truesdale (806)
Tyson Fresh Meats (308)
Dates: Field assessments – 8/22/06, 10/16/06, 10/17/06 and 11/13/06

Public Comments:

A total of 26 comments were received concerning the North Raccoon River. Of the 26, 12 of the comments were for portions of the stream that was not assessed.

A survey was returned for the North Raccoon River from a Buena Vista County Conservation Board employee. The survey stated that swimming and children's play within the stream was unknown, but some canoeing, fishing, trapping of minnows, and seining takes place. A follow-up phone interview was conducted by the department concerning the Three Waters Wildlife Area, Sturchler Pit Area, and the Raccoon River Heritage Wildlife Corridor. Within the three areas canoeing was noted to take place infrequently during the summer months as well as some fishing activities. The frequency of the fishing activities was not given.

Comments from a Sac County Conservation Board employee were received stating that they have personally led canoe trips where children have been present between D15 (190th Street) and McDonald Greenbelt. During the canoe trips it was noted that the children swim in the water as well as wade along the shore. Fishing also was noted to take place during the trips. On other occasions fishing, canoeing/kayaking and tubing has been observed. A frequency of the activities was not given.

A survey from the general public was submitted for North Raccoon River for the stream segment north of Sac City. The survey stated that the person has observed a few people swimming in the river while kayaking. They have also waded in the stream looking for dragonflies over the last years. In 2006 and 2007 the person kayaked in the stream several times. Fishing has also been observed.

Comments were received from the general public stating that Vogel Access and McDonald Access are a popular canoe launch site. The person has fished this portion of the North Raccoon River.

A comment was received from the general public stating that the person has fished and canoed the North Raccoon River for over fifty years. A location of these activities was not given.

An online survey was returned stating that children had been observed recreating in or near the stream three to five times during the summer of 2006. It was also stated that the person has observed fishing along the North Raccoon River. A location of these activities was not given.

An online survey was returned stating that swimming has taken place every year since 1976 near 205th Street. The person also stated that while canoeing they take children to wade and fish in the stream several times per year. Canoeing and fishing were also noted to take place on a regular basis.

An online survey was returned stating that they have canoed segments of the North Raccoon River in Greene, Carroll, Sac and Dallas Counties. The person regularly canoes and fishes the river and while doing this they have observed tubing and swimming. Children playing in the stream have also been observed regularly.

IOWATER conducted six snapshot events at three sites within the assessed portion of the North Raccoon River. At one of the sampling sites canoeing/kayaking was observed during both snapshot events as well as hunting being observed during one event. The only other recreational use observed was a camping site at either Sturchler Pit area or the Raccoon River Heritage Wildlife Corridor. There were no other observed recreational uses or evidence of recreational uses found during the other three snapshot events.

Analysis:

The previous assessment concluded a Secondary Contact Recreational use (Class A2) designation was appropriate for the North Raccoon River due to the lack of flow throughout the reach to completely fulfill what is considered a Class A1 primary contact recreational use and the overall lack of evidence to justify Children's Recreation (Class A3).

The only comments received that talked specifically about the North Raccoon River upstream of Vogel Access were received from the Buena Vista County Conservation Board and from IOWATER. The IOWATER snapshot events within this portion of the stream found camping sites at the county park nearby. There were no streamside or instream recreational activities observed, nor was there any evidence of instream recreational uses found during the snapshot events. During one event a camping site was noted to be present downstream, but there were no activities noted that would suggest that the campers were recreating in or near the stream.

During the department's field assessment of this portion of the North Raccoon River, evidence of recreational uses was found. The evidence included trash thrown from the bridge, traps and fishing tackle. Also on one of the bridges graffiti was found. Footprints were noted to be present leading to the traps found.

The Buena Vista County Conservation Board stated that some canoeing takes place, but not at a high frequency. Also fishing, trapping and seining were noted.

All of the activities noted within this portion of the North Raccoon River, upstream of Vogel Access, are consistent with the Departments original recommendation of Class A2 Secondary Contact Recreational Use designation.

Site 406-e Bridge Views



Looking Upstream



Looking Downstream

The portion of the North Raccoon River from Vogel Access downstream to Sac City received a large number of comments. The comments consisted of canoeing at a regular frequency, children playing in or near the stream as well as fishing, seining and trapping. A Sac County Conservation Board employees comments were consistent with the comments received from the general public.

The depth criteria guidelines used by the department to help determine if Primary Contact Recreational use (Class A1) is attainable typically will exclude streams that are not able to support a Class A1 use due to the overall lack of flow needed to support activities that result in direct and prolonged contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting appreciable quantities of water sufficient to pose a health hazard. While these guidelines are effective in most situations, there are cases where a stream demonstrates that it can support the Class A1 use despite the lack of flow that typically distinguishes a stream that can support Primary Contact Recreational uses.

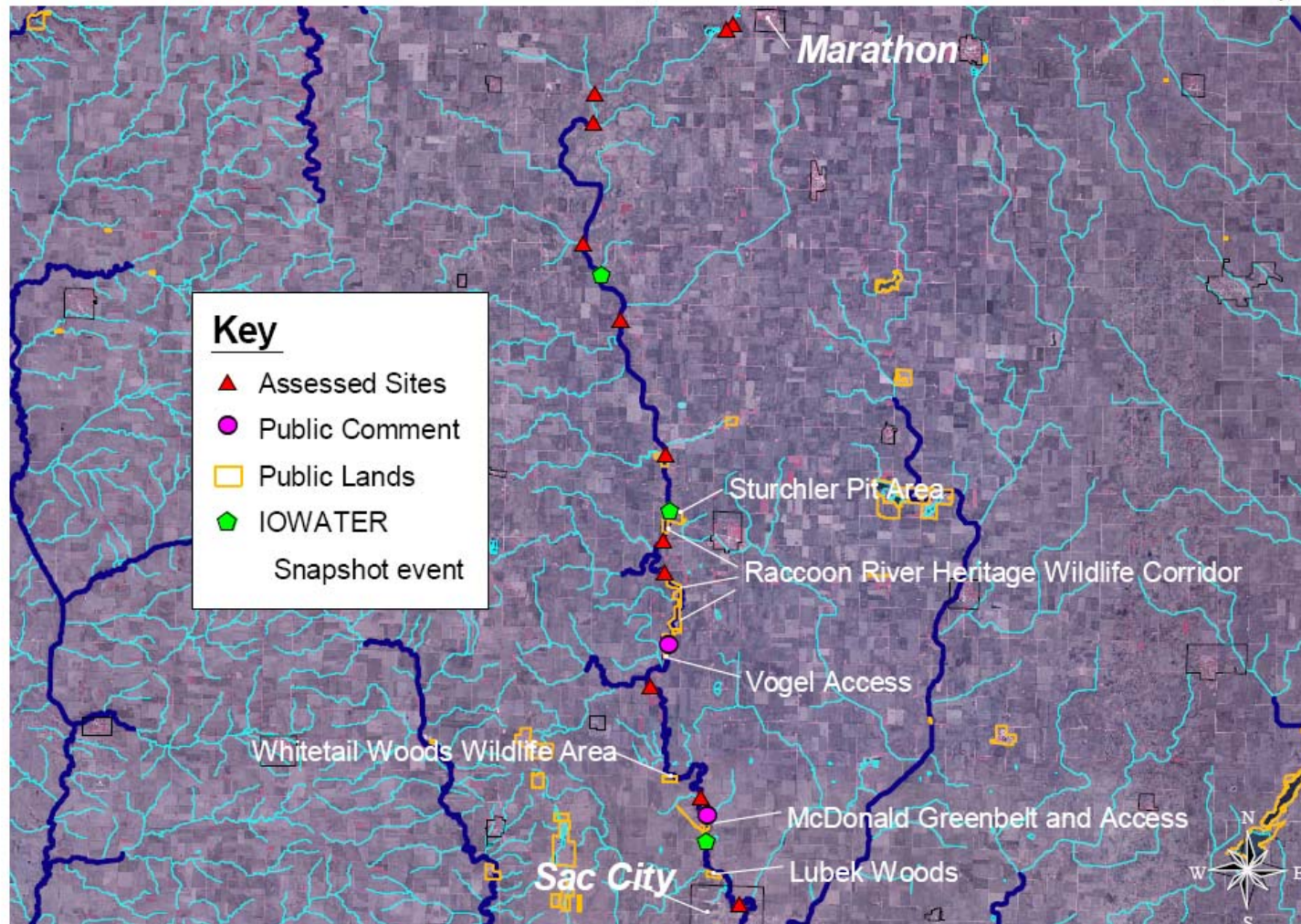
During the field assessment, the average depths for this portion of the North Raccoon River was found to range between 5 and 23 inches, with two of the six sampling locations having adequate average depth for Primary Contact Recreational Uses. Although the North Raccoon River does not fully meet the depth guidelines for Primary Contact Recreational Use, the depths found along with the comments received suggest that this portion of the stream can support such uses.

Due to the recent information received the Department is modifying its original recommendation for a portion of the North Raccoon River. The new recommendation for the North Raccoon River will be Primary Contact Recreational Use Designation (Class A1) from Sac Co. Road M54 (S24, T88N, R36W, Sac Co.) to Vogel Access (SE ¼, SW ¼, S1, T89N, R36W, Sac Co.) and Secondary Contact Recreational Use Designation

(Class A2) from Vogel Access (SE ¼, SW ¼, S1, T89N, R36W, Sac Co.) to the bridge crossing of 450th Street Northwest of Marathon (South Line S17, T93N, R35W, Buena Vista Co.).*

*See recommendation map for details

Public Lands and Comment Map for North Raccoon River



Recommendation for Recreational Use Designation for North Raccoon River

